

City Council Regular Meeting Transcript – 03/25/2021

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[10:03:55 AM]

>> Mayor Adler: We don't have a manager yet. Let's go ahead and start. We'll take care of the logistics. I'm going to go ahead and call to order the city council meeting here today, Thursday, March 25th, 2021. It's being handled remotely. 10:04. I'm going to read in some changes and corrections. Item number 17 on March 15, 2021, the arts commission unanimously approved the selection process recommendation naming anamilis works, LLC, as the selected artist for the \$100,000 commission. On item number 18, March 15, 2021, the arts commission unanimously approved the selection process

[10:04:56 AM]

recommendation naming Laurie Fick as the selected artist for the \$100,000 commission. Item number 24, authorize negotiation and execution of the agreement with Xavier sheriff schipani. Correct the spelling of his name. Item 6, approve a resolution the Austin economic development corporation, amending its bylaws. It deletes noting we would be creating the south central waterfront advisory committee. Item 62 is not list understand the changes and corrections, but I will note with respect to item 62, boards and commission, there are three that I think need to be read into the record. On arts commission appointment by councilmember pool, Heidi smallbach.

[10:05:58 AM]

Councilmember pool also appointment to the downtown commission Mike Levine. And a planning commission reappointment by councilmember Renteria, Jeffrey Thompson. The others are on the

revised late backup. And that's what's before us. Item number 64 is being postponed to April 8th, 2021. Item number 96 withdrawn and replaced by item 115. Item 97 withdrawn and replaced by item 116. Item number 105 has a valid petition filed in opposition to the -- to the zoning change. Item number 111 adds as

[10:07:00 AM]

co-sponsors councilmember kitchen and councilmember Renteria. Item number 111, I think there's a posting at this point revised version of that that incorporates the amendment from councilmember Casar that was presented to us at work session. And also the amendment from councilmember alter that she published on the message board. The numbers that have been pulled today, item number 2, pulled by councilmember tovo, 16, councilmember tovo. Item 27, pulled by councilmember alter. Item 34 pulled by councilmember tovo. Item 37 pulled by councilmembers Casar and alter. Item 39 and 40 have to be taken up after the ahfc meeting.

[10:08:01 AM]

Item 43 you would by councilmember harper-madison. Item 117 pulled by councilmember Casar. There is late backup in item 16, 26, 37, 47, 62, 66, 67, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 90, 81, 82, 89, 93, 96, 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 18, 111, 112, and 116. Also when we get to that agenda, we'll read it out, but in the ahfc, item number 4 has a revised agreement. A lot to try and work our way through today.

[10:09:02 AM]

Let me go through that one fast and come back to you. We're going to start by hearing the morning speakers. I think we announced that the morning speakers would have two minutes to speak. Our staff is going to start trying to group speakers by item number so that people speaking on a topic hopefully will get more brought together. It is a process under development, so there's not a hope that we're going to be perfect with that as we start that. But staff is moving in that direction and we're going to be trying to do that as best we can today. But we're going to listen to all of the morning speakers on everything except really the zoning cases and the speakers on the APD items 37 and 117. We'll hear the zoning

[10:10:03 AM]

speakers at 2:00, we'll hear the speakers on the police matters at 6:00. We're going to hear from all the speakers this morning except for the ahfc speakers. Then we're going to recess the city council meeting, convene the ahfc meeting, call it to order so that we can hear the ahfc speakers that have signed up. And then we will recess the ahfc meeting after those speakers have spoken and we'll recess that, come back into the city council meeting so that we can handle the consent agenda. The speakers already having had a chance to speak. And then we'll start taking up items, at noon we have nine citizen communication speakers at three minutes

[10:11:05 AM]

each. A bunch break after those speakers, coming back at 1:30, picking up items on the agenda we can handle. At 2:00 P.M., 32 zoning speakers. And again we're trying to group them by items. We'll work through dinners and we also have executive session with three items to squeeze in today. Dinner break hopefully in the 5:00 to 6:00 P.M. Time frame and the speakers on the two APD, 37, 117 items at 6:00. That's generally the path that we're going to follow. Ann and then Alice son.

>> Kitchen: My question was, item 14 and 25 that we had talked about at work session. We talked about postponing

[10:12:07 AM]

them. So I wanted to [inaudible] That. If people want to move forward with it, I'll have an amendment and I'll need to pull it.

>> Mayor Adler: I think we agreed we would postpone those items.

>> Kitchen: Do we need to pull it to postpone it or just mark it right now?

>> Mayor Adler: Mark it right now.

>> Kitchen: 14 and 25.

>> Mayor Adler: 14 and 25.

>> Kitchen: Yes.

>> Mayor Adler: Will be postponed. Alice -- Alice son --

>> Pardon me, they are going to postpone until the next council meeting, until the 8th.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes. Thank you. Ann is going to surface those changes so everybody can see them. And then councilmember alter, you had talked about postponing item number 27.

>> Alter: I had actually talked about withdrawing item 27 and I have two lines of direction which I think should be fine at the appropriate time, I would be happy to provide that direction and fine with it

[10:13:08 AM]

going on consent as withdrawn. Just let me know when you want me to do that. That way staff doesn't have to stay for that.

>> Mayor Adler: If you just have two items why don't you go ahead and do it now.

>> Alter: So I move to on consent withdraw item 27 and invite the member can chambers to envision a path forward. The city manager is directed to plug into the process where appropriate and absent meaningful process bring forward the base process for approval. Basically this is inviting the chambers to come up with a different model and approach and absent that staff is to come forward with the base model they have.

>> Mayor Adler: Manager, is that -- are you okay with this?

>> We are, yes.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. So that is how 27 will be

[10:14:08 AM]

handled on consent today.

>> Alter: I'll be happy to send that language to Ann Morgan.

>> That would be great. For the record, it should be indefinitely postponed so that your direction is part of that item. As opposed to to --

>> Alter: Thank you for that clarification.

>> Mayor Adler: So the item on consent is to indefinitely postpone and to adopt the direction language to the manager. And councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: Just a quick question because I'm not sure if I heard you. On 111, there's amendments by councilmember alter, I see those on the message board. Did you also say amendments by councilmember Casar?

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Casar had amendments posted for the work session on Tuesday.

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: And I think we have also posted version 2 of 111.

>> Kitchen: Okay. I've got it then. I just wanted to make sure I was looking at the right one.

>> Mayor Adler: That a red

[10:15:10 AM]

line version that will show the Casar amounts amendments and alter amendments. Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: I have a couple updates. One, rather than pull and discuss 2, I would like to postpone 2 for a long period of time, so perhaps it's best to postpone it indefinitely at this point and bring it back after -- after I've had a chance to really meet with staff and talk about how best to proceed. If no one has concerns about that. I have a quick question about what the embedded artist program is and that relates to the edc item so if we could handle that quickly.

>> Mayor Adler: Which?

>> Tovo: A whole bunch of items beginning at 19. It's 19 through 24. I don't want to pull them and have staff wait around. If they could just give me a quick summary of what the

[10:16:11 AM]

embedded artist program is and how that relates to our cultural arts funding -- I mean our art in public places fund,, I would appreciate that opportunity. 111, I have not had a chance to read through the dozens and dozens of emails we've gotten this morning and so this may have been taken care of by somebody else doing an amendment, but at our work session on Tuesday, we had talked about having a time frame and some more directive language with regard to navigators. I think I saw councilmember alter's suggested amendment. I don't think it did that. Mayor, did you -- has there been an amendment about that?

>> Mayor Adler: No.

>> Tovo: I can quickly -- if we have a little bit of time --

>> Mayor Adler: We have about an hour and a half --

>> Tovo: We are going to do speakers first. I think that's it's for the moment. It's kind of a discombobulating day. There may be other consent items but that's it for the

[10:17:12 AM]

moment.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Thank you. I would like to pull item 53. I just have a couple quick questions about it. May I give out the consent agenda what I would like to be shown voting no? 17, 18, 29, 30, 31, 33, 47, 51, and 52.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Kelly: Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: The record will note that. Councilmember alter and then councilmember kitchen.

>> Alter: Thank you. For 111, mayor, you and I had talked about providing some further clarification during discussion. I just wanted to get a sense of when you anticipated we might do that appropriately, and then wanted to ask if it would be possible for your staff as you have done sometimes to put the rough outline of the day on the message board because that was a lot to digest and follow. You did a great job saying

[10:18:14 AM]

it, but I would love to see it written so I can refer to it.

>> Mayor Adler: We'll do both those. Ashley, you are watching, go ahead and put that on the message board. And let's -- I anticipate councilmember tovo coming forward with an amendment to urge initial focus on the navigator, so let's have the discussion about 111 when that comes up. Hopefully we can keep it on consent.

>> Alter: Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I just had a question in response to councilmember tovo's suggestion on item number 2. I am fine with postponing it, not certain if I'm fine postponing it indefinitely. I would like to understand better what she's thinking so perhaps we need to pull it.

>> Mayor Adler: Let's pull number 2 as well, as is shown --

>> Tovo: Mayor, if councilmember kitchen is fine with postponing it for one meeting, then perhaps you and I can talk about the

[10:19:16 AM]

timing element off line.

>> Kitchen: Yes, I'm fine with that.

>> Tovo: Then I amend my request to postpone it to the next meeting, though my real intent is to postpone it for a longer period of time, but she and I can talk about that.

>> Mayor Adler: Any object to having item number 2 being shown as postponing until our next meeting? If not, that is the action on consent for item 2. Okay. Are we ready to go to public comments? We're going to do that now then. We're going to call the speakers. This is everything except the zoning cases and the two APD issues. Which will be called later in the day. And it does not include the Austin housing finance corporation speakers. So we're going to take all the speakers first, we're going to recess, go into ahfc and take those speakers and come back and have our

[10:20:17 AM]

consent. Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Thank you to the staff for working to batch things and thank you to your staff Ashley fisher for facilitating that. I don't know, I'm sorry, I didn't follow all the ins and outs so I'm not sure when our Rainey folks are coming forward, but I did want to call attention to Shannon on my staff all the spore respond he knows we've received from residents and Katie power sent that out in three attachments. We did that at the request of Rainey residents. Some of them have said could we please make sure the council had received their emails which we don't have ability to do except in a public forum. I think it's about 80 pages and three different files that Katie powers sent along last night so you should have a record of nearly all or probably all of the

[10:21:18 AM]

correspondence that we've received from residents in that area.

>> Mayor Adler: To that point, councilmember tovo, thank you for doing that. There's a broad conversation that you wanted to have really on the subject matter that is part of item 16, 34, 74 and 82. 16 and 74 being basically the same thing, same matter. And 34 being a matter

[indiscernible]. It's my intent to call all four of those items together without a motion, but to have the opportunity for that broader conversation. After we finish that broader conversation, then we'll discuss each of those three things separately and we'll give the applicants are available to speak so that they can do that. The other speakers speaking on those items will be

[10:22:18 AM]

speaking in this morning call of speakers. Does that work, councilmember tovo?

>> Tovo: It does. Thanks. I know we're trying to make the best of a challenging situation. It is a longish policy discussion and we had lots of staff on the call on Tuesday. I apologize they were waiting all day

and didn't have an opportunity to speak about that density program. And thanks to Shannon, I didn't have anything to do with that compilations.

>> Mayor Adler: And looking at in terms of the clock and the schedule is after we vote on the consent agenda, it may very well be the next thing we do is have the broad conversation on those four items, but not the specific action on those items. All right? If everybody is ready then, we'll start with the speakers, two minutes on the agenda. How many speakers do we have

[10:23:20 AM]

in the queue?

>> 26.

>> Mayor Adler: All right. And that does not include the ahc speakers; is that correct?

>> It does include the ahfc, so --

>> We just have them batched, mayor, so we will take them last.

>> Mayor Adler: Take that batch last. And in between, when you get to that place, let me know because I'm going to recess the city council meeting and convene the ahc and then we'll take that batch.

>> Understood.

>> Mayor Adler: All right. Sounds good. All right, let's hear from the speakers.

>> The first speaker -- the first speaker is Kathie fendrick-turner.

>> Hi, I was going to speak on item 2, but it has been postponed so I will speak at the next city council meeting when item 21 addressed. Thank you so much for your service to Austin. I appreciate you all.

[10:24:24 AM]

>> Next speaker is pat vals trellis.

>> Thank you for letting me speak. My name is pat vals trellis and I live in district 9. I want to start by expressing my appreciation to councilmember tovo for being the author of the bull hook ban that was passed in August of 2015 and also for pulling item 2 today. I also want to thank councilmember kitchen for her amendment that improved councilmember tovo's proposed ordinance back in 2015 and also councilmember pool, mayor Adler, councilmember Casar and councilmember Renteria for voting for the bull hook ban in 2015. I am here to request and in order improve what was already a very good ordinance that achieved a desired effect of banning

[10:25:25 AM]

bull hooks you not put an ordinance in place that would state in writing as city policy that a baseball bat, axe handle, pitch fork, bull hook or device of similar design may be used on a horse, mule, jack, cow, bull steer, hog, pig, swine, sheep or goat. In 2015 there were four councilmembers who tried to weaken councilmember tovo's proposed bull hook plan. There were 32 speakers signed up in favor of the ban, only ringling felt entertainment, ringling parent company and a private business that uses elephants spoke against the bull hook ban. Please keep moving forward on animal cruelty by removing the language in

[inaudible] And then this will be a good proposed ordinance. If you approve this item with C whenever it is you

[10:26:25 AM]

bring it back up, the good bull hook ordinance you passed in 2015 will be weaker than it was because it will allow cruelty to certain animals.

[Buzzer sounding] Thank you for your time.

>> Mary collie.

>> Okay, this is Mary kale, thanks for my time today. I live in district 10. And I'm talking about item number 2 which has been postponed until next month. I would like to agree with what the immediate speaker just before me said. I think that if we were to approve this ordinance with the inclusion of section C on it, it would significantly weaken protections against animal cruelty. I think C where it says it's affirmative defense to prosecutions if the animal is livestock as defined in

[10:27:26 AM]

city code would make a loophole for people to get out of being prosecuted for this if they use bull hooks, baseball bats -- kind of shocking to me that that would be any kind of defense anyway. So axe handles, pitch forks, et cetera. I think section C significantly weakens the ordinance. So I would encourage you when you bring it back up before city council, you keep the strong language, remove section C from this and retain a and B. Thank you very much.

>> Mayor, could I just make a comment, please?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, go ahead.

>> Pool: For all the speakers who are here to talk about 2 and urging us not to pass this, we have agreed to postpone it off of today's agenda. At least until next week and potentially indefinitely. I just want everybody to know that that is the action

[10:28:26 AM]

that we were plan to go take with this item. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you, councilmember pool. Continue with the speakers.

>> Cynthia Douglas. Ms. Douglas, please unmute.

>> [Inaudible].

>> Cynthia Douglas.

>> [Inaudible]

>> Mayor Adler: I think she might be away from the phone.

>> Right. We'll call her back. Next speaker is pat bukta.

>> Good morning, councilmembers, pat bukta here, executive director of Austin, Texas musicians. I hope you all are

[10:29:26 AM]

recovering after last month's relief efforts and I want to give a special thanks to mayor Adler, city manager cronk, councilmember Casar, Renteria and Ellis, and especially mayor pro tem harper-madison. For working with our musicians and event volunteers to serve food and water to thousands of central Texans in need. Adversity does not define character, it reveals it. I'm humbled to know we could all come together during this crisis. I'll be brief today. As you begin to explore convention center funding for venues and look at new federal relief funding sources as discussed during Tuesday's work session, please remember us, the musicians, venue workers and event staff that not only make up the largest voting block in the city but apparently now the largest volunteer emergency relief workforce as well. We're still out of work more than a year after the cancellation of sxsw. And besides the Austin music

[10:30:28 AM]

disaster relief fund and creative worker relief grant, we are still scraping by to survive. Let's get the live music fund up and running with stakeholder input so that it's ready to go when venues and musicians

are ready to start playing gigs again, and let's keep the money locally, supporting agencies and touring acts. Let's continue to work together so we build an equitable future for the live music capital of the world. As we saw last month, we are always going to be here to help the community as long as we can afford to be here. That's up to all of us, so let's put in the work just like we've all been doing together since the pandemic began. Let's strengthen the relationships we forged through fire over the last year and some day soon let's raise a glass and sing at the top of our lungs together when the music begins again.

[Buzzer sounding] Thank you.

[10:31:29 AM]

>> Scott Strickland.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you to the last speaker. Thank you and please make sure your membership is really aware of these federal funding programs that are available on a first come, first served basis. I think we're going to have discussion today about seeing if the city can assist folks in that industry. But there's going to be a lot of money and we ought to endeavor to get everybody in our city that's eligible for that primed and ready so when the sba opens up applications, our whole city is -- can hit send and be in that line. And it's a really good way potentially to bring some money in here locally. And thank you for the volunteer support. I saw you out at the mayor pro tem's event and you had an army present and it was appreciated. Please go to the --

[10:32:32 AM]

>> Scott Strickland.

>> Yes, hi, Scott Strickland here. I'm an Austin, Texas musicians member as well. I am the program director for Austin, Texas musicians. I'm speaking on behalf of item 31 today. And relation to the Sahara lounge being denied saves funding for diversity and equity training which transpired from a little bit ago. I've known Eileen for a while. While I have not played there personally at the Sahara lounge, she opened her doors to me when he was an an instructor teaching college students to make films and record musicians there. I got to know her over 11 weeks of being in that bar, and I can tell you that she is an amazing person.

[10:33:33 AM]

Very down to Earth and unlike other bar owners in Austin, she actually works her own bar. The yesterday that she would be denied saves funding because of a mistraining when she -- the patrons of

that bar are as equally diverse as the musicians that play there, probably one of the most diverse leanups in Texas, I would argue, is unconscionable. As an African-American, I can also speak to the fact that even though Eileen is white and she is a bar owner, that she absolutely works very, very hard, very, very diligently even before covid, even before black lives matter became a movement. She has always worked to include and preserve the history and the culture of Austin at that bar. So I would ask that if there's anything that city

[10:34:34 AM]

council can do to reverse that decision so that --

[buzzer sounding]

-- The Sahara lounge bar could have access to those saves funds, that before a great accomplishment for that bar and for the city of Austin. And I thank you so much for your time. I yield the rest of my time.

>> Sonya Reese.

>> Good day, mayor, councilmembers. I am on the board of directors of Austin, Texas musicians. I live in district 6. I'm here to speak on item 31, the Sahara lounge is often described as one of the ways Austin, Texas venues used to be. Most of the time neighborhood local venues are dispersed, cast aside when it comes to gentrification of

[10:35:35 AM]

neighborhoods. Sahara lounge is one of the few venues that represents diverse music groups on their stages as well as residency of African-American knight. Preservations of such venues are key to the continued support of equity and diversity and growth of our Austin, Texas music community. The Sahara lounge was qualified for the saves fund. I am here to ask that it be allowed to be a part of providing equity training and strategic equity plan reviews for Austin live music venues. I believe it should have the opportunity to take again, just as my constituent had spoken, Scott Strickland. Thank you. I yield my time.

>> Tovo: Mayor? I would just like to flag this item. I know that I had received an email yesterday from Cody Cowan about this matter and forwarded it on to our EdD

[10:36:37 AM]

staff and assistant director holt Rabb can respond and if it's of interest to council maybe we could ask her to share with us her response once we've -- at the appropriate time today.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Next speaker is --

>> Mayor Adler: Our office has inquired about it as well, councilmember tovo. Go ahead with the next speaker.

>> Cynthia Douglas.

>> Yes, can you hear me?

>> Yes, go ahead.

>> Can you -- okay. I was planning to speak in reference to number 2, but since it's postponed, I'll return at that time.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you.

>> Thank you.

>> Jessica Elly.

>> Hi, my name is Jessica

[10:37:42 AM]

Ely, chair of the go valley association. I'm here to speak on item 40. I wanted to thank you on behalf of the neighborhood for designating this two and a half acres as parkland. You are preserving a 30-year-old pecan grove as a city asset. This goes a long way to repairing trust with the neighbors. Just to remind you, this is the land that had a beautiful old stone house that was demolished without a permit. But moving past that, we're really excited to have this land designated as parkland because it opens a bucket of grants money that's available to us if it's parkland. Just down the street is a big green space, but technically it's a water retention pond. And managed by watershed. So the neighborhood is prevented from making any improvements to that land. Moving forward, the neighborhood is really looking forward to welcoming the affordable housing complex that will go in the two and a half acres next to the two and a half acres

[10:38:42 AM]

that you are preserving today as parkland. And so on behalf of the neighborhood, I just really want to thank you -- I've got a long list of names I was going to read, but you have a really long day ahead of you so I'll spare you that. I just wanted to say thank you to city council and mayor for approving the parkland of item number 40. Thank you.

>> Carlos león.

>> First and foremost, thank you for letting me speak against Dr. Market Scott as health authority, item 53. By canceling south by because of all the money to bring Austin, Dr. Escott said there was no evidence it's going to make this community safer. Though there was much evidence at the time outside Austin showing not sitting south by would have made

[10:39:42 AM]

Austin a dangerous covid-19 pre tree dish and super spreader when everyone went home. He said there is no strong evidence canceling mass gatherings breaks the chain of transmission and there has been no evidence of airborne person to person spread of the virus. The Wuhan China will already docked down residence. Dr. Escott didn't flip forced by petitions using commonsense to say and do what was right there. If he followed the democratic hippocratic oath from not doing wrong from falsehood. By wrongly advising you to not follow governor ab board's order, Escott is violating oath of office to defend, preserve and protect laws of state to the best of

[10:40:42 AM]

his ability. Though he says people need to continue wearing face conversations in public to avoid another surge in cases, I allege he has not met his evidence based burden to content legally restricting our liberty to publicly interact without face coverings, which I expect judge Livingston to rule tomorrow. Mayor Adler saying Escott is the expert to whom we trust our public health, though the truth is opposite. Just as senator Dr. Rand Paul actually Fauci the fraud at this point masks are for though --

[buzzer sounding]

>> By removing and replacing him now.

>> Speaker, your time has expired. Paul Robbins.

>> Council, I'm Paul Robbins. I'm an environmental activist and consumer advocate. My first point is that I want you to start letting citizens speak on issues in

[10:41:43 AM]

the manner we are accustomed. You are limiting us to one or two minutes when we formerly had three minutes and this is not enough time to deal with complex issues. Further, you've banned citizen communication at your council committee meetings for a year now. The good thing about constricting citizen communication is you limit the time you have to listen to uninformed and abusive people. But you also fail to get constructive criticism, essential for good government. In the insufficient time that I

have left, I want to speak to three short comings of item 64 which will study backup renteriaation for security hups. I support the concept but remind in the horrible freeze that just occurred, almost no one was able to drive so it would be difficult for people to get to security hubs even if those security hubs had been

[10:42:45 AM]

equipped with backup generation. Second, storage batteries are profoundly expensive. The winter outage knocked many homes off line for days. A battery bank of this size may be unprecedented even with daily solar charging, which will also be more expensive because you will have to increase the ray size to comment indicate for bad weather and battery con conversion loss. You might evaluate an alternative of using rerenewable diesel or another biofuel with backup generators. And third, if you are looking to harden facilities with batteries, maybe you should include Austin's emergency control centers. Thank you.

[Buzzer sounding]

>> Olivia Overturf.

[10:43:45 AM]

>> Good morning. My name is Olivia Overturf. I live in district 2, however I just found out the mount caramel apartments are without again due to busted waterline by construction crews. I'm here to speak on agenda item 67. That every group, nonprofit, fund, foundation, trust, mutual aid that participated in the winter storm be included in the audit. During the winter storm many of the -- currently used by councilmembers in districts 1 and 2 are not letting organizations. They have no tax exempt or 501c status, no license, no bond. There's no traceability of how they use donations or funding and oftentimes are the source of donation waste including waste from food and water donations. Stacks of water bottling repeatedly taken -- were repeatedly taken to areas whose boil water notice was

[10:44:47 AM]

lifted by the marginalized communities in d1 and 2 went without. Continuing to allow unlicensed groups and organizations that were using the winter storm hub at the millennium, communities like mount caramel had no idea that was the hub for food and water distribution for the eastern crescent. Last weekend I witnessed newly formed project dump food bags in district 2. We need have a number to call or way to report unauthorized use of city resources and services. We definitely need our councilmembers to immediately stop leaning so heavily on organizations trust and coalitions who are

not legitimate on paper and have no training. We need councilmembers to stop relying on organizations to do their

[10:45:47 AM]

outreach and to stop advertising for them through their own social media.

[Buzzer sounding] We need to make sure every single organization, nonprofit, group, coalition or notice other foundation --

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> Thank you.

>> Carmen Yanez bolito.

>> Can you all hear me?

>> Yes, go ahead.

>> Thank you so much. So I'm signed up to speak for item 67 after action review as well, but we were under the impression 64 would be postponed until April 8th. There are a number of people from dove springs and other hard hit areas from the storm who plan to speak. I request you put something back on the agenda so you can hear from them. I'm here to talk about the consequences of not fully implementing resolutions. Including the resilience resolution of 2019 and 2020. Now we're going to have a

[10:46:48 AM]

third one with resilience in the title. But I want to make clear there are staff member those that went to mayor and council in 2019 and 2020 that were brought by your own staff champions who have been doing this work about a yes disaster response and preparedness but more than that, climate-proofing and disaster-proofing our sit. There are recommendations like things -- things like backing up power at Ullrich water plant. Organizing community response teams, which would have avoided a lot of accusations from people like misoverturf. The group is a volunteer group of people from dove springs who had to take a bunch of meals like many did from other disorganized groups who kind of dumped stuff on us and distribution had to be organized. Organized people who have been working on resilience are many experts at this, but there was tons of unnecessary confusion,

[10:47:49 AM]

heartache, trauma, secondary trauma associated with a disorganized response. Of course a lot of the stuff was unprecedented, but y'all we should have been better ready for this storm. Hub locations were part of staff recommendations. Community efforts have tangible demands. We have action plans for climate-proofing infrastructure. It's being done piecemeal because one person in your executive city management --

[buzzer sounding]

-- As decided to take it in a different direction with no communication to your staff --

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> What I want is for you to make public the -- communicate publicly about this after action review.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Thank you. That was going to be I think a very public after action review. I think councilmember tovo

[10:48:49 AM]

has a resolution in that regard.

>> Tovo: Mayor, just to clarify, I know Mr. Robbins spoke and offered some useful conversation around the resilience hubs -- sorry, my dog thinks it was useful too so he's chiming in. But the idea is postponed until our next meeting so we have time and I'll make sure that -- that Carmen knows that as well. We'll have an opportunity to talk about -- to talk through the resilience hubs at our future meeting.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you.

>> Kathie mccourse.

>> Good morning. I'm speaking on behalf of the austin-travis county leadership team in support of 111 and the recommendation to create a spending framework that addresses priority -- thank you, mayor, mayor pro tem, councilmembers for

[10:49:50 AM]

recognizing the essential role child care plays in the community. There's swift action during the pandemic with child care relief funding helped many providers reopen or remain open throughout the crisis. But the child care sector was gradual returning to the status quo will leave children behind. We have a unique opportunity to build a more resilient system by investing in key infrastructure, supplementing funding to existing programs and investing in new opportunities to address gaps. A recent letter signed by 50 Texas business leaders noted child care drives small businesses. If our young children can't access quality child care, much of the workforce can't return to work. It is often the most

overlooked of the infrastructure and access the quality of programs that influence our children's educational trajectory take place from birth to age

[10:50:52 AM]

five. With new investment in our child care infrastructure -- without new investment in our child care infrastructure, we will return to being a community that has insufficient supply to meet demand, inequitable access for children of color, no quality child care for children of employees who work non-traditional hours, trying to survive on slim margins and workforce low wages resulting in high levels of food insecurity. Thank you for the decision to prioritize opportunities for transformational investment and race early care and education as one of those. Thank you.

>> Mallory Dixon.

>> Hi, this is Mallory Dixon I'm here today to bring to your attention the inhumane of apartments kicking people out due to, quote unquote,

[10:51:53 AM]

[inaudible] That happened months ago. This was my home over the past four years. My apartment as flooded twice, car been broken into and they did nothing about it. Every time when I called to discuss issues, I was bullied and talked down to. But that's what they do. They make you believe you have no scary. You feel hopeless you have no one on your side, not even your own city. The big fish swim and the little fish sink. After on March 27th I had someone walk into my apartment and told me I need to do move out asap and they had no units available, which was lie, but they said they had a unit available starting April 2. My manager was so rude to my mother and I but she needs to move out and we will not help her. She stated I may walk away from my lease without any penalties which I find comical since they have kicked me out but I'm still

[10:52:54 AM]

bonded to my leaves. She could gain teen I would be able to move back in 60 days. I haven't been able to sleep Austin's this happened. If it wasn't for my mom could Tom get me and have not been fully vaccinated, places were limited due to my disability. I would be completely homeless and I know I'm not the only one. I know I needed to advocate for other people because it's happening everywhere. We have no right to fight our complexes about this and our city is not on our side. When the Austin tenant council called my manager, she told me she was the rudest person she had spoken to and the only way to get out of my lease I would have to sign a nda saying I would not discuss this matter any further. I'm asking you as councilmembers is that how you want rents to -- residents to be treated?

[Buzzer sounding] These apartment issues are only going to make it worse. I will not stop here.

[10:53:55 AM]

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> Monica Guzman.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I just wanted to ask the previous speaker to [indiscernible] Offices. I'm sure everyone would like to have it. And if you sent it to us, we will be -- I'll go back and look for that.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Speaker?

>> Monk Kathie Kathie tovo -- monic a Guzman.

>> There were dire consequences due to lack of disaster preparedness and response. Uneven application of the rolling electrical outages, loss of utilities with little or no relief. Working on the boil notice

[10:54:57 AM]

lacked clarity that some residents stopped boiling water too early. When conducting the audit, identify disaster preparedness and response starting with the lack of process and transparency for creating the position of the chief resilience officer. Gaps should not exist considering years of work done by gave and staff recommendations dating back on the 2019. Gaps identified must go publicly communicated. The proposed task force will include listening sessions dispro forks nature residents but must be part of the process. City staff is preparing budget ads. The process must include commitment to elevate budget priorities and requests related to implementation for hubs. Infrastructure improvements and anti-displays 'measures. Regarding item 112, speaking as a resident, I have been a

[10:55:57 AM]

renter more than 30 years. The city needs to hold both property owners and management companies. Not either/or, both. Accountable for inform, supporting and assisting tenants. Thank you.

>> Mayor and council, the next group will begin with the F.A.R. And Rainey items. Curtis Rogers.

>> Mayor Adler: Hold on second, please. The next group concerns what?

>> F.A.R. And Rainey items.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Thank you.

>> Curtis Rogers.

>> Hi, my name is Curtis Rogers, I live in district 3. Specifically the neighborhood that borders Rainey street across from I-35. I want to speak and encourage you to vote for the ordinance granting additional F.A.R. Entitle many. Austin needs a lot of housing and voting for these won't provide that housing today but will put more

[10:56:57 AM]

housing in the pipeline because we'll need it. These additional housing units will be available with less parking which I think is a plus because less parking means we're going to have to be supporting more of our [inaudible]. Few car owners means fewer car trips, more local spending, close to our 50/50 mode split and climate goals. Support these. We need nor housing in Austin. It all supports our housing goals. Thank you.

>> Michael ableson.

>> Hi. I'm speaking to item 34. Please take a moment to visualize your home and the street you lived on as you grew up. How many people live there? Imagine 1500 people living on your street instead with many tall buildings. Imagine ten city blocks of 1500 people living on each street. Put all streets together so

[10:57:59 AM]

there's only two ways in and out. Imagine a narrow street with one lane cars in each direction. I just described the one tenth of one square mile called Rainey and that's the density of 15 to 1 F.A.R. Today and over the next month you will be asked to approve something that happens nowhere in Austin. Three properties with --

[inaudible] Two to one. Over one and a half times the medical examiner density currently allowed and described off bops. At the mac with needed expansion and bar visitors weekend evenings. All these people can't get around safely with streets so narrow buses can't fit. People crowding bars and streets without sidewalks force people to walk in the highly traveled streets. The emergency vehicles have trouble even now speedily servicing us. We don't have a city comprehensive plan to guide development at Rainey. Over the last two years Rainey has been before you, city commissions and city

[10:59:00 AM]

manager and we've had over 50 people in the city council meeting shows concerns. Over 30 people in Rainey have written letters of concerns the past three weeks. People already are frustrated and concerned. You don't care about our homes, family or safety. Through all of these energies as a group you have never acted on any of our concerns. A safe place to visit, live and raise our children, we beg you to listen to us now. 15 to one allows plenty of density and has been the maximum in Austin for many years for good reason. Thank you.

>> Dustin Lauderback. Dustin Lauderback.

[11:00:05 AM]

Greg Anderson.

>> Good morning. Excited to all be together soon. Agreeing Greg Anderson, d9 resident and live downtown where we have a lot of room to grow and to welcome new neighbors. Item 34, item 74 and 82 all look to replace three bars and a closed restaurant with 1,000 sustainable homes in downtown Austin. New housing Austin makes some homeowners uncomfortable which is one of the reasons nimbyism is a top threat to housing affordability nationwide. We currently have less than two weeks of supply meaning lower and middle income earners have almost have zero chance of affording a home.

[11:01:05 AM]

Encouraging displacement, encouraging sprawl or grow the tax base by adding these residential towers and doing other work you guys are thankfully working on. In 2011 when the housing in Austin was surprisingly affordable, the rhetoric of the day was led by make development pay for itself. Since then it's let's extract as much as humanly possibly and not save enough. Millions for the affordable housing trust fund. Not enough. Millions in on site affordable housing paid by by the developer. Not enough. This all leads to huge failures in housing. We can consistently give in and on positive new housing but at what cost. Austin is hurting far too many with anti-change policies. Let's avoid pulling the rug out from developments years in the making by trying to change the rules and support items by passing items 34, 74, 82. Thank you all and good luck.

[11:02:15 AM]

>> Greg Lauderback. Dustin Lauderback.

>> Yeah, thank you for your time. I just wanted to come out and support item 82, the 9092 Rainey project. I think we all can see there's a major housing shortage crisis. I live in Mueller and precinct 2, two to three calls a week from brokers asking about selling my home. I think people really want to be in and

around downtown because of the walkability. And, you know, I just ask that you contemplate your decision you consider the 20 units that 9092 is giving to affordable housing and how this will be affected if you vote no. Thanks.

>> James Schisler.

[11:03:16 AM]

>> Hello, yes, I'm in support of items 16 and 74 for the Rainey street redevelopment of some one-story buildings into highrise towers that will allow higher density and better tax base for the citizens of Austin that will benefit the community. Thank you.

>> Mayor, may I ask Mr. Schisler if he lives in Rainey? He didn't identify where he lived. In relationship to the projects.

>> I live on east 127 east Riverside drive across the river and my girlfriend lives at 43 Rainey street.

>> Tovo: Thank you.

[11:04:19 AM]

>> James Stratton.

>> Good morning, mayor Adler and councilmembers. My name is James Stratton, resident of city council district 7 and a member of the Austin pedestrian advisory council, and I'm speaking today to encourage a yes vote on agenda item 34 and its companion items 74 and 82. As a member of the spread advisory council I view these density bonuses as essential step towards creation of a more walkable Austin. A walkable Austin a healthy Austin and the 1,000 homes to be added will increase the ability of folks to enjoy the freedom of motion given by their feet. More of our neighbors we can visit and collaborate with on foot without car dependency eases the demands on Austin's roads, infrastructure and emergency services. When people's homes are built near the culture and economy of downtown Austin as the items encourage, the benefits of a pedestrian

[11:05:20 AM]

population unlock. Among them decreased pollution to air and greater social [inaudible]. For a healthier, freer, less car dependent Austin, I encourage a yes vote on these items. Thank you for your time and I yield.

>> Blair Carroll.

>> Good morning, Mr. Mayor and councilmembers. My name is Blair Carroll. And I live downtown in district 1 just on the other side of 35 from district 9. I also own a building on sixth street in district 9 and formerly lived in the Rainey district and I'm calling in regards to number 74. I have real concerns about what not supporting projects such as the river street entrances means.

[11:06:20 AM]

This is what I think the neighborhood needs. We need more housing, more people who live in the neighborhood and invested as citizens, not just people down there partying. My view Rainey has largely to become a place to fly in, drink, have a big day and leave. I have kids and it's hard to even walk up and down the streets on a Sunday afternoon with kind stuff going on there. I do think it could be a great tourist destination while creating a real neighborhood that's livable. You know, that can't be done without buildings like this and the other ones in the area that brought 400 homes for people invested in our community and Rainey as a neighborhood. My understanding this building make significant improvements from an alley in really bad condition as well. Therefore there's not going to be any additional congestion. I believe the building is going to be accessed from east [inaudible].

[11:07:22 AM]

Furthermore the developer's is going to fund the trail head and that's a huge benefit for the city and something I know my family and I will use. I think there's a really strong economic argument to support the building as well, but for the time being I want to focus on the neighborhood benefit. I think this is exactly what Rainey needs and what the city at large needs from Rainey. We don't need another dirty six and I think it would be a shame if Rainey develop into a neighborhood of nothing but just bars.

[Buzzer sounding] I urge you to support this and for immediate area benefits and what they mean for the future of the district. Thank you and I yield my time.

>> Mayor, we have one person calling in. After they call in, the next group are ahfc speakers.

[11:08:24 AM]

If you can give us a minute.

>> Mayor Adler: Sorry. While we have a break, with respect to the consent agenda, I posted an amendment, version 2, to councilmember Fuentes' item 66. I see you've gone on the message board to say that's okay with you. I appreciate that. And the work of you and your co-sponsors on this item. Without objection, item 66 will be on the consent agenda with that amendment version 2. That's been given to everyone. And posted.

[11:09:25 AM]

>> Mayor, the caller that we are waiting on is Zenobia Joseph. I'm not sure where she is at. I'm not -- and so I don't know how you would like to proceed.

>> Mayor Adler: Let's go ahead and recess the city council meeting, go to the ahfc and come back to the council meeting and if you've been able to find and locate her in the intervening period of time, we'll hear her speak then. Okay?

>> Sure.

>> Mayor Adler: With that said, at 11:09, I'm going to recess the Austin city council meeting for the -- we'll return shortly. Also at 11:09, I'm going to convene the Austin housing finance corporation, March 25, 2021, 11:10. The meeting is being held by video conference. A quorum of the board of

[11:10:28 AM]

directors is present. We have one change and correction to read into the record. There was late backup in item number 4. We're going to hear from speakers that have signed up to speak on these agenda items. At the conclusion of these speakers, we will recess the ahfc meeting and go back into the council meeting. Do we have speakers signed up?

>> Yes, the first speaker is Sara Andre.

>> Hi. I'm actually speaking on

[indiscernible] I don't know if you want to take me out of turn. If you do --

>> Mayor Adler: You are speaking on what?

>> Well, on item 4 on ahfc agenda. I wasn't sure if you were taking these all at once.

>> Mayor Adler: We're taking them all together.

[11:11:29 AM]

You are fine to go ahead.

>> Very good. Thank you. My name is [indiscernible] 1991. Like anybody that has lived here that long, I think the cost of living skyrocket. I know you all are very well versed in Austin's housing crisis. We are desperately in need of long-term affordable units like the ones proposed for city heights. I do want to emphasize something as an affordable housing practitioner. I've had more than 25 years experience

putting these projects together and they are incredibly difficult. We have many, many hurdles and they are very high hurdles to pull this together. Sometimes I don't know if that comes across. There's not a special magic or a secret warehouse of low cost items or labor for an affordable housing deal. We have to do everything with a market rate deal does

[11:12:30 AM]

with a lot more scrutiny. Contrary to what you may have heard or may hear today, the city heights team has spent many hours working with area residents on development. And more than just

[inaudible] Make the more friendly to the area. And we are basically at the finish line here. We've run a marathon, it's been a two-year marathon, and this is kind of our final [inaudible] Before we are able to close and actually start building these units for low-income households. I urge you not to throw two years down the drain, and I urge you to vote for this item and help us create affordable housing with -- that Austin so desperately needs. Thank you very much.

>> Anna Padilla.

[11:13:33 AM]

>> Hi, good morning. My name is Anna Padilla. I represent a developer for item number 4. City heights. This has been a long undertake for our team to put this project together. City heights will provide 179 affordable units, and we have been working since 2019. On November 2019, the -- received funding award from the Austin housing finance corporation. On 2020, August 2020, city heights received

[indiscernible] From the Austin housing finance corporation. Last summer receiving unanimous approval by the city council in addition, the project has received already the approval of the tax credit

[11:14:37 AM]

application in February of this year. We have tried to work with the neighborhood and several meetings have occurred. Specifically with the transportation department to listen to their concerns regarding safety. I would like to briefly summarize some of the items that we are going to be improving to address their concerns. The road will be widened from 26 feet to 40 feet wide. We will have a dedicated lane to access the building

[indiscernible] It's called. There will be sidewalks built extending from across the building, across the side. Signage will be added and there will be pavement

[11:15:38 AM]

signing and we are going to restore the pavement and restore it. City heights will be --

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> I respectfully request the approval of the resolution authorizing this, thank you.

>> Kitchen: Mayor, did she say they would be signing something? I couldn't hear what she was saying.

>> Ms. Pardade?

>> The signage on the road will be improved will be --

>> Kitchen: Okay, thank you.

[11:16:46 AM]

>> Good morning, can you hear me?

>> Go ahead.

>> My name is -- good morning, my name is Ana and I'm the pastor of the

[indiscernible] Combined neighbor contact team and speaking on item 4. The residents continue to raise major public concerns this development will have on us in the future and the

[indiscernible] Of this proposed development. Additionally no public transportation is currently being provided to these residents. Proposition is in close proximity this road but we don't have a date of the study.

[Indiscernible] Since the mid 1980s for which no significant road improvements have been made and which the city's traffic engineers continue to say it's a substandard road. Recently three months ago in December of 2020 there was a traffic fatality at the exact location of this proposed development. This dangerous stretch road has already caused the lack of one of our neighbors. How many more lives will we

[11:17:51 AM]

sacrifice for affordable housing. If you approve this can we count on you to help us help them? They don't have safe access to Franklin park, to the recreation center, to the new pending public health facility, to the H.E.B. And pharmacy, to the grocery store. What if we have another winter storm? Can we let you know if they no longer have electricity and water? We will be reaching out to each of you individually and asking you to please let us know if you will help us and which of your staff will be your

designated contact person that we can reach out to. We will do this because we value our safety and the safety of these new neighbors. In closing, we sincerely want to thank councilmember Fuentes and her staff as well as the staff in the transportation department, watershed protection department and public works. They have been working diligently with us to address the public safety concerns as well as environmental damage already caused by the developer. We truly appreciate them and their efforts. I am available should you

[11:18:52 AM]

have any questions. Thank you.

>> Next speaker is (saying name).

>> Hi. Good morning. My name is (saying name). I'm a traffic engineer with wgi. I'm calling in support of item number 4 that is 4400 Nuckols crossing. In looking at the improvements that are being proposed to go with the development that -- which is the turn lanes going into the sites, left and right turn lane into the site and the proposed all day stop control at Nuckols crossing and the [indiscernible] Drive. I also want to add that these improvements have been reviewed and approved by the Austin transportation department. And in addition as another speaker noted earlier, Nuckols crossing is also going widened to ensure it meets the urban standards so that includes curb and gutter so it meets current code. And also bike facilities and sidewalk will be provided

[11:19:53 AM]

along the site frontage. And in order to address the safety concerns associated with the site egress, the site is going to be restricted to right turns only. I believe that with all these on-site and off site improvements that are being provided that the project team is doing everything they can to make sure that the concerns associated from a transportation perspective are being addressed adequately. Thank you.

>> Christopher shear.

>> Good morning, mayor, councilmembers. Hopefully you can hear me. I am Chris shear, I'm the C -- with Mcdowell housing partners and a principal partner in the city heights development. We appreciate your time this morning. As my colleague had said before me, we started development activities on city heights around middle of 2019 and I'm really proud to say that we're on the

[11:20:54 AM]

culp of closing all the financing required to commence construction and ultimately deliver these units to the city of Austin. I'd like to say that affordable housing development is never easy, but it's always worth it. We've had a lot of public comment today, speakers, about the severe lack of affordable housing options in the city and the benefits that it does deliver to citizens. Tremendous amount of work and dedication from a large group of stakeholders have went into getting the project to this point. And foremost I want to commend the city of Austin staff, particularly from nhcd, the Austin housing finance corporation, development services and councilmember staff who have been really engaged and diligent in working through the multitude of processes and procedures that go into developing affordable housing assets. They've done a great job. They've operated with the highest level of professionalism and most of all they've always worked with the city of Austin's

[11:21:54 AM]

best interest at heart. So when I hear comments about safety and concerns, maybe there's not a perfect solution, but the solution that's been provided today and the links that we went -- the lengths that we went to ensure that level of safety which I'll talk briefly about has really been above and beyond the standard of due diligence on a development. Today we're before you on approval of the final bond documents so we can proceed to closing. City heights has already received a resolution of approval from the Austin housing finance corporation's board to issue the state revenue bonds

[buzzer]. This is the final step and historically this is a very administrative step in nature. The approval at hand today should have no bearing on the site plan, zoning or development program itself. We know the opposition that has been -- speaker, your time has expired.

[11:22:56 AM]

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you.

>> Mayor, we have Ms. Joseph on the line, and if appropriate she registered to speak on ahfc and consent items as well. So if you would like to hear her for ahfc first and then soon after if appropriate for the other items we can --

>> Mayor Adler: It will be appropriate. We'll recognize her now to speak on ahfc. We'll move out of the ahfc meeting, just keep her on the line. We'll reconvene the city council meeting and then she can speak to those items.

>> Great. Zenobia Joseph.

>> Thank you, mayor and councilmembers. I'm Zenobia Joseph. Mayor, did you want me to speak on all of mfi items? I apologize and city council, it's a little hard to hear what you're saying.

>> Mayor Adler: Not a problem. No, just speak on the ahfc item and then stay on the line and then in a moment or two then you will speak to

[11:23:58 AM]

the city council items.

>> Okay, thank you, mayor, councilmembers. I'm Zenobia Joseph. My comment is specifically related to Austin housing finance corporation item number 5. That's the four percent low income housing tax credit for [indiscernible]. I actually signed up in favor of the 27 units. Of course it's that 8909 east ninth street and there's very little affordable housing in that area. As a matter of fact, the literature that I sent you that specifically related to Mr. Mitchell, Terry Mitchell's property which is adjacent to it and those condominiums actually range from 300,000 to over a million dollars. And so it would be ideal -- I understand that the family held out a really long time before actually selling out and allowing affordable housing to be built there. I would just urge council to pass the item.

[11:24:58 AM]

I think it's a good one. Thank you for taking my comments. If you have any questions, I'll gladly answer them at this time.

>> Mayor Adler: Great, thank you. We're going to go ahead and recess here at 11:25 the hill country meeting. We'll return to it as quickly as we can. I think it will be brief. But let's keep doing it as we said that we would. So at 11:25 here on March 25th, 2021 we're recessing the ahfc meeting. Here also at 11:25 we're going to reconvene the Austin city council meeting here on March 25th, 2021. We're going to conclude our signed up speakers. I think we have one more if the clerk would please call the last speaker.

[11:25:59 AM]

In the morning speaker section.

>> Thank you mayor and councilmembers. Mayor, can you just list the items that I signed up for? My computer is outside. I don't have it in front of me.

>> 62 and 80.

>> Thank you so much. Item 80 is specifically manor apartments and I am opposed to that very particular development. It's across the street from university hills library. It's right by the H.E.B. On Springdale and manor. It's 60% area median family income, but less than a mile, approximately 0.9 miles is the reserve at Springdale, which is 60% median family income as well. When the low income housing tax credit items are west of

[11:27:00 AM]

loop 1, often times you have 80% area area. So I did ask the city clerk to send information to you and there is an item that's off of the access road on 183 that you approved February 4, 2021. And it shows mixed income, 62% median family income. As a point of reference, 60% median family income is approximately \$54,700. African-Americans make less than that. But that's approximately a teacher's salary or the salary of a social worker. So it would help if there was some mixed income, mixed use development in these areas. I would also ask that you stop segregating the African-Americans and low income individuals in northeast Austin corners of the city. I would ask you to recognize as well as it relates to item number 62. I think that's just commission bylaws. My comment is similar to a previous speaker which asks

[11:28:01 AM]

for a greater transparency. I've asked you to put this item on the agenda. I would say to the other speaker that house bill 2683 by representative Canales was heard today in state affairs and I spoke to his staffer. I would just say that that bill is specifically targeted to the elderly and to allow greater access. So I just want you to know that as much as I'm engaged, I'm sitting in city hall right now and it is difficult to even figure out how to dial in. So our citizens would need more help.

[Buzzer]. I thank you again for taking my comments. If you have any comments I'll gladly answer them at this time.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Clerk, are those all the speakers?

>> That concludes all the speakers.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember Ellis?

>> Ellis: Thank you, mayor. I know we'll probably go back to the ahfc meeting, but I wanted to see if we could pull 67. I know that I had posted on the message board and so did

[11:29:01 AM]

Casar and I thought we should pull that one so we could have a brief discussion about it. Okay. We'll pull 67. All right, colleagues, let's do the consent agenda. At this point it's looking to me like items 16, 34 -- these are the pulled items. I'm seeing 16, which is the Rainey street F.A.R. Matters. 34, which is the same. 37, which will be heard after 6:00. 39 and 40, which we have to hear after the ahfc meeting. 43, 53 and 67.

[11:30:04 AM]

And 117, which will be heard after 6:00. 66 is as amended with the version 2 amendment. And 111 we're using the version 2 resolution. And then there's an amendment that councilmember tovo posted that is the facilitator navigator amendment posted for people to see. It says be it further resolved, prior to conducting the other critical work directed in this resolution, city manager shall prioritize staffing resources to assist individuals of local businesses in identifying, applying to applicable federal assistant programs. Staffing resources dedicated to this action shall mirror the need and demand within the community for these services. I'm okay with that amendment. Does anybody have any objections to that amendment being added to version 2 of

[11:31:07 AM]

111? Okay. Without objection then that's added to 11 and remains on consent. One last time, the consent agenda I think has items pulled of 16, 34, 37, 39, 40, 43, 53, 67 and 117. Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Yes, mayor. I wanted to point out I've accepted a friendly amendment on item number 112 from councilmember Casar.

>> Casar: Thank you, councilmember.

>> Alter: Can you state what that amendment is? I didn't follow that one.

>> Fuentes: It's item 112 related to tenant assistant.

>> Casar: I'm happy to cover it if that makes sense. It is to include an urging to the code department to begin to accelerate

[11:32:07 AM]

enforcement on cases where people have been in unliveable conditions and report living in those conditions since the storm. I know lots of folks have gotten to do repairs and so it basically lays out that if the code department gets a written plan that they find acceptable for repairs, they can accept that plan or otherwise that they should start beginning to accelerate the enforcement process so that we can get repairs done where they're not getting them.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Anybody have any objection to that being added? Hearing none that gets added to item 112 as part of the consent agenda. Councilmember kitchen?

>> Kitchen: On item 2, that I believe -- I don't know if she's with us. Councilmember tovo had pulled, I wanted to let her know that I am fine with an indefinite postponement if that's what she wants to bring.

[11:33:10 AM]

>> You were muted.

>> Tovo: I'm sorry. I think the hail has taken out my print everybody, my computer, everything. I'm fine with that. Thank you. Sorry I had my video off. And my mute apparently.

>> Mayor Adler: Just to close the loop on that, we're back to an indefinite postponement on number 2.

>> Mayor Adler: I'm trying to figure out what to do with that. This is an item from staff. Does staff want to address the indefinite postponing of this item?

>> Mayor and councilmembers, we were certainly welcome with the postponement. This was coming from a commission and so it would be coming back at an appropriate time.

>> I think, mayor, if I may help Spencer. It is the boards and commissions that you sent it back to you and they sent it back to you, so I believe

[11:34:10 AM]

it's your appointees that are interested in the item more so than staff.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Colleagues, the question is do we want to postpone this indefinitely? Is there any objection to postponing this item indefinitely?

>> And mayor, just to clarify, it is my intent to bring it back. I think we have more work to do. It will just take a little time to sort out.

>> Mayor Adler: Sounds good. Without objection, then on the consent item number 2 is going to be postponed indefinitely. All right, colleagues, anything else? Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda? Councilmember alter makes the motion. Councilmember Ellis seconds. Any discussion on the motion? Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: I was wondering if we were going to have further discussion on 111.

>> Mayor Adler: Now would be the time to do it. And manager, we also had a request for staff to come forward and talk about the art in public places.

[11:35:10 AM]

If you can have a staff member ready to address that for councilmember tovo, we can keep those on consent as well, unless you don't need that anymore.

>> Tovo: I don't. Thanks to Katie powers for reminding me. I submitted a question that got answered about it, so thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Sounds good. Manager, no longer necessary. Councilmember alter, do you want to talk about 111?

>> Alter: Yeah, thank you, mayor for putting together this reduction and I'm proud to co-sponsor it. I think it is important step for us to talk at this time to pause and think about how we can deploy the funds that are coming down from the American rescue plan in ways to tackle some big problems like homelessness and childcare and workforce development and food insecurity. And to dream big about if we made these investments how

[11:36:11 AM]

we could move forward from this time and build back better, as president Biden said, and not just go back to the same. I want to underscore that for many of the -- probably each of the four things, there are plans that are already out there. I think we have a good idea of how we can solve these. I do not think that dreaming up what we could do to address them will take that long. I'm really heartened by the evolving relationship we have with the county that has common part for being tested in adversity with the pandemic and working closely together. I think we have a really opportunity by combining forces to make huge impacts on things. I know that I am committed to working with the county

[11:37:12 AM]

and I assume that every colleague on this body is. So I hope that we can take this step and if it takes a couple of extra weeks that's okay. Councilmember tovo's amendment focuses us in the interim to bring down as much as of the interim funds as possible. And I want to invite the mayor if you would briefly speak to sort of the process so that we can provide some further clarity to staff who worked really hard on the spending framework so that we can understand how this builds off of that and a how this -- what some of our expectations are in the process and with the deadlines, etcetera, moving forward?

>> Thank you for those comments, councilmember alter. For what it's worth, I agree with everything that you

[11:38:12 AM]

said, in the resolution itself, there's an April 12th date, and to be clear, manager, the language says that we're going to ask you for kind of initial work on the 12th. It's not an expectation. I think it specifically says that in the wording? But just to make that abundantly clear. It's not an expectation that you're going to be able to go through the steps and talk to the county. I've had some indication from judge brown that he is eager to engage in this conversation which I think is real supportive as well as some of these colleagues on the court. But I think it would be important to come back to the council on the 12th to give us an update and tell us how it's looking, especially with the amendment being added on more immediate facilitation because I think one of those

[11:39:14 AM]

sba programs will actually close -- will open some time in the first or second week of April if we're to help people get into that. Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: Thank you. And I did want to add one other piece as we're talking about the navigation. This is exactly a navigator piece, but just want to call this out for our intergovernmental relations team. I have requested a meeting of our joint committee for aid, county and the city. There is a real danger that the state is going to once again appropriate the school funding for its own tax purposes as opposed to invest those into our schools and/or to refuse to accept the funding because there are equity requirements. And so I just want to underscore that in line with

[11:40:15 AM]

all of our legislative agenda and in support of our schools that where appropriate that we would be advocating for those funds to flow to our schools to help our students get through this pandemic and to navigate this time. It doesn't really fit under the navigation so I will just provide that. As direction to city manager. The other thing that I would just say is that if city manager has questions about how to -- how this might be implemented or concerns that we should have an open dialogue about that, and open communication so that we can achieve this goal of being visionary. It may be a bit of an iterative process and build off of things in interesting ways and I for one am open to that dialogue as appropriate moving forward.

[11:41:19 AM]

>> Thank you, councilmember. We'll be bringing those type of questions and as the process moves forward the dialogue with the council will be critical in that.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Other comments on the consent agenda. Yes, councilmember Kelly and then councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Thank you very much, --

>> Kelly: Thank you, I would be amenable put it on the consent agenda if I could ask a couple of questions?

>> I was hoping -- this is about extending the appointment of Dr. Escott as the item health authority and I was hoping that city manager chronic could explain why the position isn't filled yet and where we are in that process.

>> Thanks, councilmember. And I may have already

[indiscernible] Join us. But at a high level there was a budgets decision made in the last budget of creating a new position called the chief medical officer and that is currently what Dr. Escott is

[11:42:22 AM]

filling. As a result we do still need to have a health authority. He is serving in that interim role and has done an incredible job as we know and our community knows for the last year and a half in guiding us through this pandemic. I appreciate your transparency with the process.

>> Mayor Adler: Does 53 go back on the consent agenda?

[11:43:26 AM]

>> Kelly: Yes, please.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Thank you. I want to give some remarks on the ifc's they've brought forward. First, item 66 related to covid response, this month marks a grim milestone for our country and for our community. Since covid-19 shut the world down a year ago in March 2020 we've experienced losses on many levels from the routine of our everyday lives to unfathomable amount of deaths. More than half a million lives across the U.S. This past year. But as we learned early on this pandemic does not effective everyone the same. People of color are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This was clear when it came to testing access and then later on to the rates of infection. Half of all the deaths here in Austin and in Travis county have been Latinos. A district that is over 70% hispanic Latino. The life expectancy is already 10 years less than our neighbors to the west.

[11:44:26 AM]

But never could I have imagined this. We've lost part of the fabric that makes Austin so diverse. It pains me to think about how many of these deaths were preventable. What measures could we have taken sooner to protect our most vulnerable? 80% of the deaths locally have been from folks over the age of 60. We have a duty to change course and I'm confident that item 66 will do that. And we can do it by identifying existing resources and advocating funding from FEMA assistance that can qualify for reimbursement. With mobile clinics for vaccine access we eliminate barriers such as the

[indiscernible] To bring this alternative to our neighbors in need, our seniors, our homebound individual and minority and low income communities to ensure that we have equitable access to this life saving shot. With all of the adults in Texas becoming eligible for the vaccine in just a matter of days on Monday, we need to act fast to ensure that

[11:45:26 AM]

our folks aren't left behind. This resolution also calls for staff analysis -- for staff to do an analysis to bring increased nutritional programs for those without adequate food access and we should be able to activate emergency food distribution in the same way as a natural disaster. Item 66 will also meet the needs of small businesses, specifically assistance program for restaurants and music venues. It also offers a way for us to create more grants for the arts. It works to expand existing partnerships to provide mental health services that is critically important because it's an area that we haven't really talked much about. And an area that needs more support than ever. And it will create -- hopefully create online platforms to connect our community to local mental health services. And one thing to mention that item 66 was really rooted to community recommendations. The community resilience trust did a survey in the latinx community and offered

[11:46:27 AM]

a slew of recommendations to really take that work that they did, and thank you to all of the organizations who have been involved with the community resilience trust. And to the audience Latino community coalition, the Austin Latino coalition has also offered some insight in creating this resolution. And so it's anchored in the community. I want to thank my co-sponsors, mayor pro tem, Natasha harper-madison, councilmembers Ellis, tovo and kitchen for their support. And I'm grateful for all of my colleagues' support on this item. Another item I briefly want to touch on that I'm bringing forward on item 112 as it relates to tenant assistance. Thank you to my co-sponsors Casar, Renteria, alter and the mayor pro tem in helping bring forth this resolution. I know that many of us had similar experiences in the needs of our constituents and how to respond to the February storm and as we've seen with the pandemic the winter freeze highlighted a number of inequities across

[11:47:28 AM]

our community. While many went without power and water for days, we saw that those living in apartment complexes felt the aftermath much longer. And as you know, many of our folks living in multi-family units as to what they're technically called, were left without running water for days due to broken pipes. And so I applaud the many landlords who have worked diligently to meet the needs of the repairs that are needed. We know that historically that is not always the case. So in passing this resolution we're telling tenants that their rights matter just as much as homeowners. And while there's plenty of back stops for landlords, this storm accelerated the needs for tenant assistance. Item 112 helps identify funding and resources so tenants will be better protected against the hazardous living conditions that we've seen as a result of this disaster. I can tell you firsthand as I visited apartments to see the damage that were done in my own district the need is

[11:48:30 AM]

severe and the worst part of the resources that we could offer to provide them adequate support. So this resolution will go a long way in putting us on a path forward to offer a slew of tenant protections and additional resources and assistance. And last but not least, I wanted to mention item 65, and thank you to councilmember Renteria for bringing this forward. This is the tejano, Vietnam memorial being placed at the park. This is especially important to me as the daughter of a Vietnam war vet and granddaughter of a a marine who served in World War II, I think that having this monument for our community will go a long way in honoring the sacrifices made by our veterans and so I'm really excited to see this move forward. You can count on my support to ensure that we're able to get the veterans' monument

[11:49:30 AM]

at chicano park. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Colleagues, any further discussion on the consent agenda? Councilmember Casar?

>> Casar: First I want to note that I think maybe it has to be added and I don't know about the language. Maybe I'll get confirmation from councilmember kitchen. I posted in a letter that I've sent in to txdot on I-35 and so I wanted to formalize that my letter would also be attached in the exhibits.

>> Kitchen: Yes, that is the intent regarding the reference to the exhibits regarding these letters. Yes.

>> Casar: Thank you for doing that and thank you for that important resolution that I know matters to each of us. I-35 bisects by district in half and it has served in many ways as a barrier and a divider in our community, and the designs that I have seen and proposals that I've seen for 35 threaten to make

[11:50:34 AM]

that barrier wider and more long-standing for generations. So I have -- I can't support the current sets of designs and appreciate the concerns being raised by the community and the issues raised here in the resolution. So thank you for working to make this better and to all the co-sponsors there, I would also like to echo my thanks to councilmember Renteria for his work on the veterans memorial and for inviting me to co-sponsor that. Councilmember Fuentes on the black saves and all that other work. I truly appreciate it. I got a text this morning from Austin public health saying if I didn't have internet here's a good line for me to call. So I appreciate them doing that work. And then I turned on my favorite Spanish radio station and they were on the radio as soon as I stopped looking at my phone. So I appreciate that continued outreach and I think what's in your resolution will only make that stronger. I know that we'll be talking about the audit and resilience work later in this meeting, councilmember

[11:51:35 AM]

tovo, but thank you for your work there, and mayor for the resilience atx resolution. I appreciate you incorporating any amendments and really emphasize to the staff that while we prioritize where the funds go with the county, I also really hope and expect we can find ways that we make it so that every bit of funding that we use we try to make that longer term change with it. I really think there's such an opportunity, for example, in workforce development to not just teach people skills, but to move them into jobs with union protections and benefits that will help them long-term. Then the last item I want to speak to is our social service contracts for substance use care. This is work that has been going on for years but that we're able to do in a much more significant way this last budget. We know that you -- everyone I've spoken with, everybody on council I know agrees and it makes sense that you

[11:52:36 AM]

can't arrest away addiction. We have substance use challenges statewide, but we -- citywide, but we can't address those challenges by just arresting more people. And it's through work like this where we can provide street medicine and long-term recovery and care to people with substance use issues that we can actually make our community more healthy and more safe. So I appreciate everyone on the dais working hard to reallocate some funding that previously went to things like trying to aarp those issues towards trying to get to the root cause of the issue and solving those substance use issues that we know need to be addressed in our community. And I think we can actually make our community more safe and healthy through contracts like these. Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. I'm going to try and get us to handle five items before we get to citizens communication so we can get some staff going. Before we do that, I think it's good to note some of the things on the consent

[11:53:37 AM]

agenda so they don't just happen without people recognizing. I agree with the comments from my colleague councilmember Casar. I would specifically note items 49 and 50, which are immigrant legal services. I'm proud to be part of a council and community that funds that kind of program. I think that item number 51, which is the contract with equidot for the mobile food services is really needed and I want to thank and commend Ashton cumber batch for that organization's involvement taking an old repurpose cap metro bus to be able to get resources to where they're most needed. I think it's great. And I do want to thank co-sponsors on

[11:54:40 AM]

[indiscernible] And councilmember tovo, councilmember Fuentes, councilmember alter, councilmember Renteria, but something that I appreciate going on consent. The opportunity to really be strategic with a funding level that we will never see again and frankly no one in this position has ever seen to see if we can actually take some challenges off the table is an exciting one. I'm encouraged with initial conversations with Travis county and leaders wanting to consider this as well. I think it's really exciting. I want to thank the staff for all the work that they did because I think it will be really useful work for us to have in terms of identifying the needs and priorities by those subject areas. And again to exactly execute what the council indicated it had wanted to have on the first go round. So I recognize this is a change in course, but I

[11:55:44 AM]

think it will be of significant importance. I think those are things that we need to be able to deal with with these sums. Hopefully many of them by the special programs that might also be able to address them. I want to thank the council on homelessness. And at the same time manager I think you're coming back to ask and I think that could be that it starts surfacing and she will be coming to council with her recommendations on what the council ought to do with that kind of work and the timing will mesh really well. The thought that if we're going to actually deal with homelessness challenge in this community we can't go back to the failed strategies of the past because we know those don't work. But also recognizing that we have to do differently what we're doing now so as to

[11:56:45 AM]

actually get people out of encampments and out of tents and into better places. And that additional way of moving forward I'm real supportive of. Any other questions on this before we move on?
Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Yeah. I had a couple of very quick comments to make. But I do have a -- I do have some questions. Let me step back and say there's a lot on this agenda and a lot of great work and frankly several items that we really needed to have fuller conversation around. And so I hope we can figure out really how to make space in our work sessions for that because it makes our Thursdays really chaotic. And I think in some cases we would just get to a different place if we had an opportunity to talk. That being said, I'm sorry that I just realized I do have questions about 112 and perhaps I can really settle them really quickly by just

[11:57:48 AM]

asking my colleague, I think this is great work as somebody who represents the districts that includes the largest percentage of renters. I'm really interested in this work. The council has done a lot of work and we do have some programs in place and direction to the manager about chrising funding for tenant advocacy and tenant rights. And I think I can resolve this pretty quickly will just two quick questions, communes. When you talk -- councilmember Fuentes. When talk about increasing legal services and funding, I assume that you intend for that work to be done in conjunction with all of the other existing recommendations that have come forward. Your resolution doesn't cite a lot of those efforts and I want to make sure that this is being done in the context with -- with all of the other work that we've done over multiple last budget cycles to really focus and increase our work on tenant advocacy and tenant rights and eviction proceedings and

[11:58:50 AM]

representation for eviction proceedings and it's not entirely clear to me how this is going to build on this work or change it or what your intention is there. So if you could give us a quick explanation that would be helpful.

>> Yes, absolutely. It definitely builds upon the work that council and city staff have been doing the last few years. And with the winter storm response we identified some gaps in services and a greater need to provide additional resources and additional outreach. And so we've been working very diligently with Austin code and their team in addressing some of those concerns so this really sets that path in motion where they can come back to us and provide some strategies and some additional things for us to build upon what has been available. It is in conjunction and really supplements the work that has been done. For example, emergency relocation services was an area that we identified, you

[11:59:52 AM]

know, having alternatives for residents who are in apartments that are deemed unliveable and we want to be able to quickly mobilize to address those needs. So really it's just building off the work that's been done.

>> Tovo: And I agree with you. Having brought forward several ifc's related to emergency relocation assistance, I guess what we might need to do is really look carefully at why -- at what some of the challenges have been to embedding that within our code because we have provided direction to the manager in the past about having those emergency relocation. That emergency relocation assistance available. I think it's fully in context of what it's supporting. I will support it today and

[12:00:52 PM]

hopefully we can talk about how it fits into the existing work so that we're really pushing forward and closing those gaps rather than kind of directing our manager back to look at those same areas again. The other thing I do want to be sure of, manager, the first be it resolved is asking you to develop recommendations allowing the code department to proactively use authority to cite landlords who have failed to make repairs. I would assume you don't need that direction. That would really concern me if our code department does not have the ability to proactively cite landlords of substandard properties or properties that have health and safety repairs that are not being made. Can you assure me that our code department currently has that authority.

>> Yes, that's correct, councilmember. And certainly I see this language as enhancing the work that is already authorized by our departments.

>> Councilmember, could you adjust that language to reflect that. I really don't want to give the public the impression that our code department can't proactively cite

[12:01:52 PM]

landlords that are not making repairs.

>> Yes, I'm happy to strike the word proactively.

>> Tovo: I think what might be more accurate to strengthen its ability to cite or -- maybe we could pause there for a moment and come back to it. I just think it's -- I think we really need to be clear with the public about what is and what is not allowed and what our code department has the ability to do. So maybe we could just table this for a second unless anybody has --

>> Mayor Adler: Do you want a parenthetical phrase, comma, as is provided in the code, comma.

>> That works for me. Councilmember tovo, is that suitable to what you were trying to address?

>> Tovo: It's a help, yes. Councilmember kitchen, I see you have your hand up.

[12:02:52 PM]

It's not my job to call out, but if you have an idea.

>> Mayor Adler: That's okay. Councilmember kitchen, if you have a suggestion.

>> Kitchen: I just want to keep it on consent and keep going. So you had used the word strengthen. I don't know what the best word is. Perhaps the wording that the mayor suggested would work. So I think we've established on the record what we're saying here so we just -- we need to add a word or two.

>> Mayor Adler: Ann Morgan?

>> So you could outline 38 through 41 and say the city manager is directed to continue to cite landlords who have failed to make repairs to damage caused by winter storm uri, just to leave the stuff in between?

>> Mayor Adler: Does that work for you guys?

>> Tovo: Yeah. That --

>> Mayor Adler: Without objection, we'll go ahead and make that change.

>> Tovo: And then lastly, I think to thank mayor and thank you councilmember kitchen for your work on txdot. I think that's very

[12:03:52 PM]

important to many of our communities and the city as a whole. And thank you, mayor Adler, for your work on our -- let me say thank you, councilmember tovo, for bringing this forward. I look forward to the outcomes of it. Mayor, thank you for the work on the funding. I too regard this as an opportunity to rereally invest these dollars in a way to strengthen our community and I look for us being thoughtful about it over the next weeks and figuring out what that best plan is in conjunction with the manager.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. The consent agenda is in front of us. Councilmember Renteria?

>> Renteria: Just quickly, I want to also recognize that on the veterans memorial, Raul Rosa was the one who came to us and asked to find a location to bought memorial there at fiesta garden. Around I want to thank him for that.

[12:04:56 PM]

And I want to thank assistant city manager Hymenean Knows for bringing this to us?

>> Mayor Adler: Those in favor of the consent agenda raise your hand? Those opposed? It's unanimous with folks on the dais. I think there's some items here that we'll be able to pass without discussion and let a significant amount of staff go. I want to see if we can call up item 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75 to 81. And see if we can -- let me look here again that would then enable us to take up 39 and 40. And then 72. So those are the items that I want to call now. The first one up is 69. It's the audit finance committee report on the bylaws. Councilmember Alter to lay

[12:05:56 PM]

that out?

>> Alter: I'll move approval of item 69. Item 69 approves amendments to the delays for the airport advisory committee and was approved by audit and finance committee recently. This item approves amendments to the bylaws for the airport advisory commission. The proposed changes that are in backup are the ones approved by the ahfc at our most recent meeting in January and they clarify the purpose and duties of the airport advisory commission.

>> Mayor Adler: There's been a motion. Is there a second? Councilmember Kelly seconds. Discussion? Those in favor please raise your hand? Those opposed? It's unanimous on the dais. 69 passes. Item 70 is from the health and human services committee of the sobering center appointment. Councilmember Tovo, do you want to lay that out?

>> Tovo: Sure. Our health and human services committee has done now two rounds of interviews. This is for the joint appointment that we share with Travis county and we

[12:06:59 PM]

had vice-chair Fuentes, I think I'll ask you to just verify with me I believe the vote was unanimous at our committee.

>> Fuentes: Yes, it was.

>> Tovo: Thank you. And so we are forwarding the recommendation of Selena Avelganga on the appointment to the sobering center.

>> Mayor Adler: Is there a second to the motion? Mayor pro tem seconds that motion. Discussion? Those in favor please raise your hand? Those opposed? It's unanimous on the dais. Let's do the -- we're going to recess the city council meeting here at 12:07 and I am going to convene or reconvene the meeting of the Austin housing finance corporation here on March 25th, 2021, at 12:07. If you guys want to take us through the agenda here, the

[12:07:59 PM]

consent agenda, maybe we can get you guys in a better position.

>> Absolutely, thank you, mayor. This is Mandy de mayo, Austin housing finance corporation. You have five items on you agenda today, which I am offering for consent. The first two items are related to an agreement with the parks and recreation department to purchase portions of two ahfc properties, one at 11:27 Tillery street and one at 1212 slaughter lane. Item number 3 is approving the meeting minutes. Item number 4 is related to final authorization to issue private activity bonds for city heights proposed 179 unit senior housing development on Nuckols crossing. I do want to point out on item number 4 that the revised resolution which was posted in late backup needs an additional change to remove any references to authorizing the execution of

[12:09:00 PM]

a ground lease. There will be no ground lease on that property between ahfc and the proposed developer. And then finally, item number 5 is authorizing an inducement resolution for up to nine million dollars for a Guadalupe neighborhood development corporation senior housing development called [indiscernible].

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda? Councilmember kitchen makes the motion.

>> Kitchen: No, mayor, I was going to pull an item for discussion.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Which item would you like to pull?

>> Kitchen: Number 4.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. If we're going to have a pulled item on this agenda, then I'm going to move us out of this meeting -- let's see if we can take a vote on the consent agenda excluding -- pulling item number 4, making it not part of the agenda. I think that might let some people go. I'm not sure.

[12:10:00 PM]

>> Kitchen: Mayor, what I have on number 4 is pretty quick.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Is there a second -- all right. The motion on the consent agenda with item number 4 pulled, councilmember Ellis makes the motion. Councilmember Renteria seconds the motion. In front of us is the --

>> Alter: I thought I had already made the motion.

>> Mayor Adler: No. Ann raised her hand to pull before we made the motion. But it is in front of us now. Any discussion on the consent agenda? Let's take a vote. Those in favor please raise your hand. Those opposed? It's unanimous on the board. Everything is approved except for item number 4. How quick is your discussion on item number 4, councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I just want to put on the record what was said to us earlier in terms of the improvements that are intended to be made for Nuckols crossing.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Kitchen: Because they

[12:11:00 PM]

weren't said by our staff, they were said by someone who was testifying. So I wanted to make sure that these are intended and I wanted to put it on the record.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Go ahead. Is that -- Mandy?

>> All I was going to say was that we are very fortunate, councilmember Fuentes has brought together multiple departments to talk about including the transportation department, as have many of the speakers have previously mentioned, there are concerns about traffic and safety, and yes, my understanding is the improvements that were mentioned specifically widening the road, stop signs, directional in and out of the development and dedicated turn lane are all things that -- and the transportation department is moving forward, is my understanding.

[12:12:01 PM]

But I will defer to councilmember Fuentes for a fuller description.

>> Fuentes: I believe we also have transportation staff that are trying to get into the room that could confirm this as well if that's helpful.

>> Mayor Adler: If this is going to be a long conversation, we're going to come back to on do it later. I just can't assess that. Councilmember Fuentes, I guess the issue is councilmember kitchen wanted to have the record say by the city the things that Mandy de mayo just mentioned. Councilmember kitchen, is that the list of things?

>> Kitchen: No. She forgot one item. Well, what I heard first widening the road from 26 to 40. Second sidewalks, third the turn lane, which is a park R. Partial center turn lane for the safety of the curve. The fourth item was pavement restored. The fifth item was signage. And then the sixth item, the preliminary engineering study that we approved as

[12:13:01 PM]

part of the bond.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Fuentes, is that the right list?

>> I would add the four-way stop for an item of note.

>> Kitchen: Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: And manager, is staff okay with these items? That's what I understood from Mandy de mayo. Maybe I should direct that to Mandy. Is that the correct list, Mandy?

>> That is my understanding. I will say it looks like we have transportation folks on the line and so I want to defer to them, but we have all been part of the same conversation.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Did you hear the list of things that were mentioned?

>> Mayor and council, yes, mayor, and that is a list that we have in atd.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: I just want to say that I want to be showing abstaining on item 4. I've previously raised concerns about the economics

[12:14:02 PM]

of the income averaging for this project. And why I support income averaging in principle, I'm not confident that we're maximizing our opportunities with how the income averaging can result in such a significant number of units at 80% mfi in this project.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Yes. And I will be voting no on this item so I don't know if this is an appropriate time to give my remarks on why I'm voting no or if we're going to bring it back up at a later time.

>> Mayor Adler: We won't bring it back up. I'm going to have for -- is there a motion to approve item number 4 with the comments that were added into the record? Councilmember Casar makes the motion. Councilmember Renteria seconds. Discussion. Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Thank you. So with this item number 4, as you know this development as stated by staff has been ongoing at least for the last five years. The zoning first came up back in 2016 and -- the

[12:15:03 PM]

conversations around it first came up in 2016 so it's been five years in the making and this is the final-final stage of approving the financing. And so for my part as someone who is newly elected is that I was very intentional and deliberate about bringing my community and city staff, so thank you city staff for all of your preparation in our ongoing conversations to better understand the history of this project, starting with the zoning process, and to where we are today. And I'm grateful -- especially grateful for all of the residents who have stepped up and shared their views and concerns around the city heights project. So informed by their feedback and from my understanding it's for greater safety for the community, and it's important to me to stand with my community so I've made the decision to vote no. I'll go into further conversations on the matter and should this final financing project go through

[12:16:04 PM]

as in this project as I understand, was unanimously supported by a majority of the council, my community can continue to count on me to engage on this issue and to help advocate and ensure that we have greater safety and to ensure the environmental concerns that have been raised are addressed. And so moving forward I'd like to see improved infrastructure and safety for those who are energy this area, things like pharmacies and health care centers would be greatly appreciated. And it also includes prioritizing safety hazards such as establishing the four-way stop at the viewpoint. It was very significant to the community so just want to underscore that need. And with that I will close my comments.

>> Mayor Adler: Great. Thank you. Mayor pro tem, councilmember pool, councilmember kitchen.

[12:17:08 PM]

>> Harper-madison: Thank you for recognizing me, mayor. I saw something yesterday about how much over asking price people are paying. And more than any other city that's one of those number ones on a list that I don't want Austin to have -- to be known by. So before that we learned that the median sales price here in town was at half a million dollars. No one should be surprised by rampant displacement or homelessness in Austin when we don't do nearly enough to address the glaring lack of housing supply in our city. So this particular project isn't going to be the silver bullet. We all know that. As councilmember tovo pointed out, it's -- councilmember Fuentes pointed out, it's been in the making for a long time. I think it could be an important lifeline for a few folks, though. As former mayor Lee Leffingwell famously pointed out, Austin is facing a silver tsunami thanks to a rapidly growing senior population.

[12:18:08 PM]

I think we desperately need to secure housing for people on fixed incomes or on fixed incomes and who have particular needs like our senior population. I think this is a step in the right direction. I understand that concerns about concentration of lower communities east of 35 all too well. I overunderstand. But look at our affordable housing map and you will see that district 1 enjoys more than its fair share of income restricted properties. I would love to look for ways to make it easier to build affordable units in our city's highest opportunities areas, but those discussions have been dragging on out for years while our housing crisis has only grown worse. The zoning for the site has already been approved. The site plan is in the final stage of approval. We need to make explicitly clear that if we don't approve this funding today we won't be stopping the property's development. They already have the zoning. It will turn into market rate housing and lose many of the hard fought community benefits, hard fought. I'll take the opportunity now to say thank you to all

[12:19:09 PM]

the folks who fought so hard and worked so hard with the various city offices and neighbors to get to this where we are now. I guess lastly I'll say it will turn this market rate housing -- it will turn into market rate housing and how I started this conversation about our housing shortage, you know, I want us to all be very intentional. We need more housing that's attainable at every income level. And I would hate to pass up on an opportunity that could give us rare affordable housing for our seniors in a quiet neighborhood near parks and schools and a golf course, project connect route. And the upcoming Bergstrom spur urban trail. So I'm happy to support this item. It's one of the affordable housing proposals that I think we just can't afford to pass up. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember pool.

>> Pool: Thanks, mayor. And I'm going to join councilmember Fuentes in

[12:20:09 PM]

voting no on this zoning case and the funding for the development. I voted no for the same reasons as she has in the past. I am cheered to see the work that our transportation department is doing to improve the access and the safety there. That was significant in my early open to the proposed development, but I was also concerned about the concentration of lower income folks in this same area. And we had promised our community years ago, previous councils had and this council had that we would disperse these kinds of projects throughout the city. It's just hard, though, I recognize, to find plots of land that are within the purchase price to ensure that your bondholders and your investors make a nice profit. So I understand the dynamics of the industry.

[12:21:12 PM]

I will continue to support my colleague on this one in her opposition to it and just make note that every once in awhile there is a project that happens in our districts that we don't support. It's happened to me in the past, but then after things are approved and they move forward, you do as you note continue to -- you transform into the watchdog. And the monitor and the overseer to ensure that the community's concerns that were voiced eloquently in advance, but were not exceeded to can somehow find some footing in the actual development of the project. I do that up in district 7, probably more often than I wish I would, but certainly on some high profile projects. And I'm now working to advance them appropriately and properly so that everything can be a part of the fabric of our community.

[12:22:13 PM]

And I had -- I have -- I have a sure feeling that you will be doing the same thing, no just because you said it, but because of your commitment to district 2 and I applaud that instinct and I support you in continuing to oppose, but should you need some assistance when things are on the ground and moving forward, I'd be happy to offer it. Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I am going to support this but with the understanding that the improvements for safety on the substandard road are going to be carried out as we read into the record. So I think that is critical and councilmember Fuentes, I stand by you to make sure that happens. And you can count on me to do that. It's a hard one.

[12:23:13 PM]

I understand the concerns of the folks that are living in that area. But I have to fall on the side of housing for seniors. So that's why I'm moving forward with this with a yes. But again as I said before, that's why I want it to be crystal clear and on the record about what we're talking about for the you improvements for that substandard road. And so it's my expectation that that will occur and I'll be happy to work with you, councilmember Fuentes, to make sure that happens, as well as the other items that you mentioned that are important for the neighborhood.

>> Fuentes: I just wanted to thank councilmember kitchen for pulling this so we could have further discussion. I think this really is a great way for us to to all learn about the different needs of the districts and maybe even change our votes. Originally I had been -- I had written down that I wanted to support this item but because we discussed it in an open forum and I

[12:24:15 PM]

learned from Vanessa how she learned what was going on in her district, I'll defer to her. I'll definitely be voting no. This goes back up to what councilmember tovo brought up earlier is we do need more time for discussion on certain items. I think as a body we should keep that front of mine. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: This is a hard one. Several of us voted against the zoning for all the good reasons, councilmember Fuentes, that you raised. And I have a lot of respect for those in the neighborhood who came forward to address -- to raise their concerns which were really valid concerns which led to my no vote. Having said that, at this point, as mayor pro tem harper-madison points out, the site does have the zoning and it's important for me to support the affordable housing funding or the decision before us today that will provide that level of funding to ensure that the units remain affordable. And that's consistent with

[12:25:16 PM]

my practice in all the years I've been on council of supporting just nearly every affordable housing funding decision that's come before us. So I think you just got a wave. I'll be voting for this today and we'll be looking for ways to really -- to support you in addressing the concerns that our residents in that area have raised about mobility and safety. And opportunities for those residents to access the kinds of amenities they need.

>> You're on mute, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Let's go ahead and take a vote so we can get to citizens communication. Item number 4, motion has been moved and seconded. Those in favor please raise your hand? Those opposed? Those voting no are councilmembers.

>> Fuentes: Fuentes and pool and Kelly. The other voting aye -- and

[12:26:16 PM]

councilmember alter is voting --

>> Alter: I'm abstaining.

>> Mayor Adler: Abstaining. Three against, one abstention, seven in favor. This item passes. I think those are all the items on the ahfc agenda so we're going to adjourn the ahfc meeting here at 2:26. I'm going to reconvene the Austin city council meeting here at 12:26 on March 25th, 2020. I'm not going to try to do any of the other quick items because we are almost half an hour delayed on citizens communication. Mayor pro tem.

>> Harper-madison: Mayor, just for the mayor you said 2:26. It's 12:26. I don't know if that's important for the record.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you very much. It is 12:26. Thank you. Clerk, do you want to call the citizens communication speakers?

>> Sure. First speaker is Paul Robbins.

[12:27:23 PM]

Paul, please unmute.

>> Hello?

>> Mayor Adler: Hello, Paul, go ahead.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> Thank you. Council, I have been an environmental activist and consumer advocate in Austin since 1977. I am asking you to direct the city auditor to review long-standing problems with customer assistance program administered by Austin energy. Some of the money from the monthly bill discount program is going to customers who own mansions and wealthy homes. This problem was originally brought to council's attention in 2015 and was supposed to be fixed in the summer of 2018, yet it is still occurring. When I reviewed the data from last fall I found 124 questionable cap recipients

[12:28:24 PM]

and I'm sure these are not the only ones. One owned a mansion may a gated community on four acres with 7100 square feet of structures, a swimming pool and a tennis court. I've provided council with an aerial photo of this estate. 50 of these customers owned half a million dollars in real estate. 28 own structures larger than 3,000 square feet in size. 28 owned more than one property. 18 had expensive additions such as swimming pools. Why are these customers getting money meant for the poor? After six and a half years it is way past time for the auditor's office to review this and other problems remoted to this program.

-- Related to this program. While it is hard to justify some of the money in the

[12:29:24 PM]

monthly discount program going to the wrong people, some cap funding is also going for the wrong purpose. For instance, even though energy efficiency is one of Austin energy's most important goals, cap encourages waste. It awards a 15% across the board discount no matter how much is used. This also works against equity by taking money that could be used to give higher discount for customers who are more careful with their consumption. We distributed cap discount paid for the top two tiers of electric use would give all current cap participants about \$60 a year in extra discounts while at the same time encouraging energy conservation. Again, this is a problem the city auditor needs to address. I would like to bring the need for an audit in sharper

[12:30:25 PM]

focus at your audit in Austin energy committee meetings, however, citizens communications at these communities have not been allowed for a year. This is something that can be easily rectified. Thank you.

>> Alter: Mayor, if I might just add that we do have citizens communications at audit and finance. No one has taken us up on that. Mr. Robbins, talk to the clerk about how to do that.

>> Mayor Adler: Noted. Thank you.

>> It didn't seem like it was posted.

>> Mayor Adler: Next speaker.

>> Carlos Leon.

>> Soy Carlos Leon. Thank you for letting me speak against the Biden Obama cabal robbing us of president trump's true 2020 landslide victory counting each legitimate vote with

[12:31:26 PM]

equal weighting only. Austin appears under a hex. Existing as multiple false feminist, anti-reality TV shows in a distorted changing space and time twilight zone protected by supernatural evil you run by upside down aliens doing stranger things with support from interdimensional ai above agent Smith's pay grade making adjustment bureau plans flux with insane inflection points only the chairman can fix. In reality the evidence of criminal large scale election fraud, big tech censorship and global gas lighting is undeniably massive. Biden is willily occupying the white house. Kenyan Obama won two elections but is constitutionally ineligible to be president because he's not a natural born U.S. Citizen because amendment 20 section 3 sentence two says if the president elect shall have failed to qualify than

[12:32:27 PM]

the President-Elect shall act as president until a presidential have qualified. Vp Biden legally acts as president while Obama illegally acts as president during the eight year fraud. That's why during the 2008vp debate Biden said Obama indicated to me he wanted me with him to help him govern so so every major decision he will be making I will be sitting in the room to give my best advice. He's president not me. Deep state deep

[indiscernible]. Deplorables domestic activities for rightly getting angry and rightly take back what is ours. The razor wire fencing and troops around the capitol are to avoid accountability and to protect them from us because they know they're guilty. The treason is FBI does nothing to them traitors but aggressively prosecutors patriots who peacefully protest. Because voter id suppresses voter fraught and swing states are unpacking their election fraud veteran justice rating their false rates. The U.S. Senate must hill

[12:33:27 PM]

hr1 before it national lies elections and codifies election fraud in perp to you toy to rig all future elections against us. Shed our constitution and America. It's not for the people, it's against us people. Just as full disclosure about the extra stressials on Earth past and present. Full exposure of election fraud can do the same for us Americans. Like my February 1 election correction speech to the public safety commission, this truth beating telltale heart will go on and on, louder and louder until the deed is admitted and undone with president trump back in the white house where he belongs. God bless America, president trump and us deplorables. And mayor Adler, what part of 12:00 P.M. Time certain for citizen communication do you not understand? You serve me, I don't serve you!

[Buzzer].

>> Angela Benavides Garza?

>> Hello, mayor, city leaders. After that I am so happy to

[12:34:29 PM]

be a democratic humanitarian in Austin, Texas. Thank you for all that do you for us and how hard you work for all of us. And thank god that Beto is out there fighting for our voting rights texas capitol. I love you are, we miss you. Want to see you face to safe. We are happy to you are healthy. I wanted to begin with that. I came from the 14th family death because of all the information we can getting in our state. We lost 14 family members, 10 of those due to covid. And we feel like in a lot of ways we came through a war zone is what we did. But however, more than that, now that Beto is here I am reinspired to continue speaking on behalf of our people. And thank you to each of you for what you're doing. This is not a personal problem with the way that we've been told out here with our governor, Dan Patrick, I'm sorry, those people over there, that this

[12:35:30 PM]

is a problem that's happened to a lot of us as a community and we are one. Now, city council woman Leslie pool I miss you too, girl. Thank you so much for letting you know that these veto laws were about to hit. We're aware of that and we're going to start telling people that we need them to vote as well. The other thing I want to talk about is mayor pro tem Natasha harper-madison who is amazing and works even on holidays and weekends for our people here as well. I know this for a fact because when I'm in the field she's talking to me as well. One of the things that I wanted to bring up is a lot of our people are not getting the complete information when making

[indiscernible] Their own and we need to make sure that we need some checkpoints, city councilmember Pio Renteria, I know this is important for your people as well. We need checkpoints that that generational wealth is not being taken from the primary transaction to the third transaction. We've got killed as far as changes and you can look at

[12:36:31 PM]

the mls report as well to find out how many people sold out during 2020 and 2021. Not the fault of the real estate agents. I just want to bring that to your attention. Also in the Austin business journal, our people don't read the Austin business journal in east Austin. Yet two zip codes were marketed at a national level, 78702, 78721. You can Google these zip codes. I don't understand why we would market two vulnerable zip codes at a national level in Austin business journal and not give our family the chances that they need. Also, when representatives speak with us in east Austin, they need to give us the whole picture. If we're under the impression that you put a protection in place, we're believing them. They need to let us know that that was vetoed in some way. They were not told that. Going forward we need our representatives to be fully honest with us. Again, thank you. I miss y'all. We cannot wait to get back face to face. We love you all so much and we appreciate all the work you're doing.

[Buzzer]. Have a great one.

[12:37:34 PM]

>> Olivia Overturf.

>> Hi. I'm back. Olivia Overturf, district 2. On Thursday, March 4th, 2021, the city of Austin approved a resolution acknowledging the city's role in disenfranchising black austinites through past discriminatory tactics. On that very day the mount Carmel apartments owned and located in rosewood an historical black neighborhood in district 1, residents have not without gas for over six days. The ink was not even dry on this very resolution to apologize to black people for the city's racist past. I was at mount mar kel

apartments in the afternoon of March 4th with the National Guard deployed by the oec. The city was wear of the situation at mount Carmel. Many residents had no idea who their councilmember was at the time. Even then they scrambled to email councilmember harper-madison and they were panicked for a response. They waited over two weeks. And the property owner since

[12:38:36 PM]

2008 was one of the mayor pro tem's largest financial contributors to her campaigned by three years ago. I am asking that the mayor pro tem harper-madison recuse herself from any involvement with this specific property due to her ongoing relationship with eureka and any involvement should be seen as a conflict of interest. Furthermore over the course of the past five years the residents have remained in limbo. To add further insult to injure a small handful of community activists continue to misinform residents of their rights, speak on behalf of the residents without their consent and potentially inhibited the residents overall mental and emotional health while providing no solutions or answers. None of this would have happened had the city stepped in to navigate and communicate the situation with the residents themselves. Surely the city took into consideration the psychological effects of forced displacement among children as there have been studies on the matter dating back to the holocaust. Surely the thing the city could have done is invest in a response team to assist these residents in their

[12:39:36 PM]

time of need and provide trauma related services. The entire situation is deplorable and an example of the very discrimination black people have long felt in this city. Many of the black residents publicly expressed that they feel that they have been discounted by their very own councilmember who sponsored resolution item number 67 herself. It is quite possible systemic racism in the city is that deep. The city also knew that the people would be relocated from their homes. The city forced the residence to go through the very property manager team that had previously refused to communicate with them from the beginning. I'm asking that these residents are offered a rent moratorium while living in an unknown hotel for 90 days. I'm asking that a full independent audit be conducted on the mishandling of the situation at mount Carmel. I would like to thank councilmember Kelly for assisting us with facts to pass to the residents and I would like to make a special thank you to the

[indiscernible] Pard club and Joe Medina for helping

[12:40:36 PM]

provide some respite for the residents during their time of need. Thank you.

>> Harper-madison: Mayor, may I?

>> Mayor Adler: Mayor pro tem.

>> Harper-madison: Thank you for recognizing me. I appreciate it. I'd like to just start by saying a lot of what the previous caller said is absolutely spot on, and I share the sentiment, but so much of it is either misinformed or categorically untrue. I'd like to make certain that there's nobody in the general public who believes that I knew that members of my district in an apartment complex that I lived in as a kid struggled without one of the most basic utilities for two weeks without responding. I'm so glad that that

[12:41:38 PM]

information is absolutely eligible for a public information request. I found out about mount Carmel on the second of March and I found out because Bertha delgado called my office. The first time I spoke to a mount Carmel resident was on March 2nd, the day I found out, and Angela Benavides Garza gave me information. So I have been unfortunately sort of neglecting this agenda if for no other reason I've spent hours, hours everyday, even the weekends, working on the absolutely terrible catastrophe that is mount Carmel which 30 days later does not have natural gas. One of the most difficult situations that I've had to deal with in my two years. And I only respond to this because I absolutely take offense to any implication that I haven't done anything

[12:42:39 PM]

that is possible and within my power. And frankly within my jurisdiction as a councilmember. No, I did not know and now that I do know I will not stop until we get a resolution. Yes, the information that councilmember Kelly's office provided I already knew but had not been given permission to provide, but I didn't, not just I'm neglecting my duties. I needed to make certain that anybody listening who believes that I've neglected mount Carmel, I would encourage you to reach out to my office. That's district 1, the number one at austintexas.gov and I'm happy to go play by play with you, what I've done, what my office has done and who I've been in communication with during the course of this disaster relief effort. Thank you, mayor.

>> Next speaker is --

>> Mayor Adler: Hold on one second. Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Thank you.

[12:43:39 PM]

And mayor pro tem, I was not trying to step on your toes at all during this process. I've learned throughout the course of my lived experiences that often times if someone talks to a certain person and for some reason they just don't get along, sometimes it's easier to help get the information from someone else. So I look forward to coordinating that. And you did reach out to me for that and I missed your message. So I apologize. But I think we're all in together. We all feel the same way for the residents of mount Carmel and we all want the best possible outcome for them. So thank you so much for leading that effort.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: And mayor, I would just thank my colleague mayor pro tem harper-madison for her -- really her continued work throughout the storm to work on behalf of her constituents. Thanks for taking the time today to let the public know about your work on behalf of mount Carmel residents, those of us who are aware of the work that you're doing. You know, I stand in support of it.

[12:44:39 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: I've actually sent mayor pro tem a listing of what you and your office have done on an hourly basis over the last two weeks. It's quite an effort in leadership that you're showing on this matter. So thank you. Any other speakers?

>> Yes. The next speaker is naila sancofa.

>> Greetings. Good afternoon. I'm a professional artist and a designer, and community activist and a ritual specialist, resident and in Austin since 1989. Thank you all for this opportunity to bring some of these concerns before this body. It's kind of weird not being able to stand in front of you right now.

[12:45:41 PM]

So -- so I have a few key things in a short period of time that I have and so I'm going to go through them as quickly as possible. And one of the main one is the former box bazaar project that was in mayor pro tem harper-madison's district. Which started in -- at the end of 2018, and it was just cancelled this past January 2021. And the reason that I'm bringing this to your attention for this entire body is I have been communicating extensively with mayor pro tem's office as well as other city officials about this project. And so a lot of promises were made. A lot of public promises were made. And then the project was

[12:46:42 PM]

eventually cancelled. And we were kind of -- as we feel that those selected and invited tenants, the cohorts, that we were basically brushed aside and ghosted once the project was cancelled. I personally put thousands of dollars into preparing to move into one of these soft spaces. You have to Google box bazaar project Austin, and we lost -- we've all lost revenues and funds and expenses on supplies and finish out P.P.P. Equipment and so on. One of my 70 plus year old apparel techs ended up contracting covid attempting to work in the space, in the environment, that was unsafe for her. And because we weren't in the spaces that we needed to be in. And I know that this project may

[12:47:43 PM]

be really, really new or unfamiliar to some of you, but it's been a city project for -- since 2018 when it was publicly announced. I'm not sure how far back it went to get it approved and so on. But I really, really need for city council, not just the mayor pro tem, to address the cancellation of this project with the -- with the tenants, the cohorts, in a more equitable way. Because just to call us and to tell us that this project is cancelled and -- and many promises were made to us --

>> Speaker, your time has expired. Next speaker is Thomas Whitmer.

[12:48:48 PM]

>> Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor and council. I appreciate the opportunity to speak this morning, or this afternoon now. I went eight days during the ice storm without being able to bathe because there was no potable water. And I only realized through the Austin American statesman that in 1960s, the city council of Austin bought failsafe equipment that would protect the water users from the happenstance of this last storm. So really we're talking about people being pulled out of hospitals for lack of water for boilers, and such kinds of things, not because of the storm, but because of the lack of management of our water system. Whether it's the mayor who didn't know how to turn on the switch, or the council or the water folks. The second thing that comes to mind back again around five decades ago the city council

[12:49:48 PM]

determined that we should participate in building the south Texas nuclear generating station. And we didn't then determine that we should winterize that station. Who knew? But we still own in the city of Austin a portion of that station. And we didn't winterize it in 2021. This council, most of you, purchased or contracted for electricity from a wood-burping unit nagedoches, and they either didn't know the tree from the forest, but the cost of that was extreme. So what does a city council do? They bought that plant for \$460 million, turned it off, and apparently during the ice storm couldn't find the match. And

then comes the mine that we contract -- we, the city of Austin -- contracts, and sets the costs, sets the delivery, from six solar facilities in the

[12:50:49 PM]

state of Texas and eight wind farms. We have not demanded in our contracts -- not ERCOT's -- and that we prepare for winterization. And I understand that the city of Austin will charge our co-op neighbors \$9,000 per megawatt hour for electricity that we had and we were able to provide for them in the emergency. These are all council fingers. You can point fingers at anybody but you did not do your job to protect the citizens of Austin.

>> The last speaker is Tiffany Washington.

>> Good afternoon, I am Tiffany Washington and I live in

[12:51:50 PM]

district 7 and I own a business in district 1. I'm a local farmer here and I am calling today because I'd like to talk about the way that the winter storm here affected our business. I at this point and at this time am unable to complete and to finish my season because of the storm. Alongside of that, I completely am affected and appalled by the response, the emergency response, to this storm. It was absolutely appalling to me as a United States Navy veteran and born Austinite how unorganized and how misinformed so many people were with so many different resources in the community. I could not believe how many organizations left so many people out or weren't there or didn't know what they were doing or how many organizations were not qualified to respond. And I completely agree with the earlier caller, Olivia, and

[12:52:52 PM]

everything that she had to say. And I would also like to go back to the March 4th resolution of the apology to the black community. Inside of that resolution it specifically states that since the inception of Austin, Texas, Austin has depended on the agricultural black slaves and I need to know why the city of Austin does not have any resources or support for black farmers. I need to know and I want to understand why I am the only black farmer in Travis county, Austin, Texas, in at least nearly a hundred years. And why I would have to go through resources such as whatever or whoever the black Austin coalition is. I don't know these people. They're talking about creating sustainable departments for agriculture and stuff. I don't know who these people are. And I don't know how the city of Austin vetted these people in order to be a resource for me.

[12:53:53 PM]

I continue to disagree with that. And I also have problems with how they handle services for people at mount Carmel who are currently being dislocated. We have families, women, who are pregnant, children, elderly, who are losing their homes at this moment. And to hear mayor pro tem say that she knew this before March 4th when the National Guard had to come out and to know that she had nothing to do with getting them there. And to also know for the last 30 days that there's been no gas am completely appalled about how this is handled by the city council. I would like to have answers as to what went on, so I continue to come here and I continue to speak and I continue to seek answers. Thank you.

>> That concludes all of the

[12:54:54 PM]

speakers.

>> Mayor Adler: Great, thank you. Colleagues, it is 5 minutes until 1:00. We have speakers queued up to speak at 2:00. And I don't know if you have any folks speaking in the executive session that we would otherwise lose. I don't know if we can take our lunch break, come back here and then do executive session. Whether you need us to do executive session before we call the speakers.

>> It's up to the will of the council, mayor. It would be great to do the executive sessions before the dinner break.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> For a lot of reasons.

>> Mayor Adler: We'll make sure that happens. Colleagues, I would propose that we take our lunch break and then come back here. Maybe we could take those items that I had mentioned before and we come back at 1:55. In that five minutes I think that we can dispense with some

[12:55:55 PM]

of the remaining items that we thought that we could handle quickly, 72, 73.

>> Mayor, any chance that we could do those now?

>> Mayor Adler: 75 to 81.

>> Are any of those fast enough that we could knock them out in five minutes?

>> Mayor Adler: I'm hoping -- I'm seeing if we could come back -- if y'all want to do it before lunch I'm fine to do it that way. Let's call them up and see if we can do that. 72 is the Austin industrial development corporation meeting. I'm going to recess the Austin city council meeting right now at 12:56 and I'm going to convene the Austin industrial development corporation here on March 25th, 2021. At 12:56p.m. We have three items on the

[12:56:56 PM]

agenda. The quorum of the board is present.

>> We have three items to approve the officers for the Austin industrial development corp and the chair and the vice-chair and the third item is approving the budget.

>> Mayor Adler: A motion to approve the three items? Seconded by councilmember pool. Any discussion? Mayor pro tem?

>> Harper-madison: I would like to speak briefly to item 72, but I can hold if you would like to vote first.

>> Mayor Adler: Well, let's go ahead -- well, this is the vote to approve the three items on

[12:57:57 PM]

72. You want to speak after we take the vote?

>> Harper-madison: It's up to you and I'm going to vote in the affirmative, so I can make my commentary whenever you prefer.

>> Mayor Adler: Is there a motion to -- all right, we had the motion a second ago. Those in favor of the consent agenda passage, please raise your hand. Opposed? It's unanimous by the board of directors. Director harper-madison, vice-chair, do you want to speak before we adjourn?

>> Harper-madison: I'd like to, please, thank you. I wanted to point out this is an item that you talked earlier about the consent agenda and this is one that people can scroll right past and, you know, just kind of skip over. But I have to say that this is really exciting. I think that this item could serve as a mechanism to identify underutilized properties more quickly and to really determine what kind of community benefits we can get out of them. And additionally I really look forward to the dec and the ability to react at market speed

[12:58:59 PM]

while really keeping the public good front and center. So I'm excited that we're going to blow the dust off this old toolbox and using it in new ways and looking for new opportunities.

>> Mayor Adler: Great, thank you. With that, we're going to adjourn the meeting here at 12:59. We're going to reconvene the Austin city council meeting here on March 25, 2021, at 12:59. Colleagues, we have some 4% tax credit indications of not opposition, item 75 through 81. Is anybody going to need significant amount of time to discuss these items? Is there a motion to approve them? 75 through 81. Councilmember Ellis makes the motion and mayor pro tem seconds. Any discussion?

>> Mayor, I do need to open and close the public hearing on each.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, and to open and close the open hearing,

[1:00:00 PM]

thank you. Approve to open and close. I would just say parenthetically that there was a memo that came out to us on these where the staff indicated that it's working with other jurisdictions in the area to come up with a uniform policy that might help prioritize our review of these consistent with the priorities and the strategic priorities that we have set. I'm excited to see that happening. Anything that we can be doing to help to encourage the development of affordable housing and that reaches deeply, we should be using every tool available to us. Then that motion is second to open and close the public hearing. Those in favor please raise your hand. Those opposed? 75 through 81 are now passed. We had two items that were on consent. It could have been on consent, item 39 and item 40 that need to be voted on after the Austin

[1:01:01 PM]

housing finance corporation meeting which we just had. So we can now handle items number 39 and 40. Is there a motion to approve 39 and 40? Councilmember Kelly makes the motion. Is there a second? Mayor pro tem seconds. Any discussion? Those in favor of 39 and 40, please raise your hand. Those opposed? Unanimous on the dais, 39 and 40 pass. I think that everything else may take us a little bit longer and it is 1:01. So with that, manager, you had something else --

>> Appreciate that, mayor and council. And before we take a break, I know that one of the challenges that we've had in last year was not having our typical music and proclamations. And I couldn't let this meeting go by without formally acknowledging the service of our police chief Brian manly and present him with a distinguished

[1:02:03 PM]

service award. So I did want to take this moment to recognize him and his leadership. As you know last month he did announce his retirement after 30 years with our community and the Austin police department. He has been a leader that has been steadfast in ensuring that we are keeping our communities safe. And Austin has remained one of the safest countries in the last number of decades. We are privileged to have him as part of our team and we look forward and I recognize that what he will be doing next is unknown, but we wish him the best of luck in those future endeavors. With this I did have a distinguished service award which I will read now that says for his 30 years of untiring service and commitment the residents of Austin, the dedication to the law enforcement profession and the policing community and providing steadfast leadership as chief of police during a period of community change, Brian Manley is deserving of public acclaim

[1:03:04 PM]

and recognition. This is presented in appreciation thereof on this 25th day of March, 2021. I think that the chief has joined us today so I did want to just acknowledge him but also to create this space for allowing council to have any remarks they want to have. Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. I do want to add to that, chief Manley, thank you so much for your service. It's rare to have someone that rises through the ranks and is here for as long as you and helped to shape the public safety, significant parts of the public safety for the city. And I wanted to just comment again having had the opportunity when the bomber came into our city to have a little bit different vantage point, a closer vantage point, to not

[1:04:05 PM]

only how our department works, and the great number of just incredible people that we have on the front line, but to see you lead the collective federal agencies in addition to the local agencies, in a role, quite frankly, that wasn't necessarily yours to take with the federal agencies there. And my understanding is they normally just step in and take that role. But everybody deferred to you. And there's a reason for that. And I have just been very proud to watch ask you your leadership in our force during that period of time. So thank you so much for your service. Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: Chief, I wanted to underscore the mayor's words of thanks and to add my own for your untiring years of service to this community. Thank you so very much.

[1:05:05 PM]

And I join the others who are wishing you the best in your next adventure and we hope that you get some time off. But, again, thank you -- thank you so much for your dedication and your passion and your commitment to serving this community.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Chief, you want -- councilmember Kelly?

>> Kelly: Thank you very much, mayor, and thank you, city manager, for bringing forward this distinguished service award. I think we're like-minded in getting it done and I'm glad that you brought it forward. Chief Manley, thank you so much for everything that you have done for the city of Austin over the last 30 years. You have almost worked for the city as long as I have been alive and that shouldn't go unnoticed. The one thing that you have done to help the morale of the police department through this really trying time has also not gone unnoticed. And we're very appreciative of the blueprint and the pathway that you have put forward in

[1:06:07 PM]

your absence. On a side note, thank you for meeting with me to kind of help to guide me in ways that we can get information from the members of your department and also learn more about what your department does. Thank you so much.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kitchen and councilmember Pool.

>> Kitchen: I want to say thank you for your many, many years of service in protecting our community. I can't tell you how much I have been appreciative of the work that you have done with our offices and with our office. So thank you so much.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Pool and then councilmember Renteria.

>> Pool: Chief Manley, I join my colleagues in thanking you for your long and distinguished career. Thank you for picking Austin to devote yourself to and to commit yourself to. And I just want to say that in the time that you were interim chief and then chief of police

[1:07:08 PM]

here in Austin and for this dais, have been really been turbulent times. I do think that it's times of turbulence that we test our true character. And I want to commend you for your strength of purpose and character in hanging in there and staying true to the course, because I think that it was really important and probably the most difficult thing that you did to bridge over from last year to this year and make sure that we could accomplish the reimagining to get us underway with that. And to set a good for insightful and humane leadership and for Austin's next chief of police. So thank you so very much.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Renteria and then councilmember Alter.

>> Renteria: I also want to thank you, chief Manley. Your accomplishment from even Johnson high school graduate and

[1:08:10 PM]

doing what you have accomplished, it's just amazing. You know, I just want to say thank you, and I hope that you have a very good retirement before you end up

(indiscernible).

>> Mayor Adler: Chief, do you want to say something? Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: Thank you. Chief, I just wanted to say thank you for your 30 years of service, for your leadership, and your dedication. And I want to wish you all the best in your next chapter. I know that this retirement is not the end of your service to our city. And I'm proud that you have indicated that you are choosing to stay in our community. And I look forward to continuing to work with you to improve our city. So, thank you.

[1:09:10 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Ellis.

>> Ellis: I just want to add to say thank you for all of your years of service and I do hope that you get some time off to relax a little bit before whatever you do next. But good luck.

>> Mayor Adler: And now, chief, do you want to have a chance to say something? You are muted. You're still muted. Still muted. Here's like the big opportunity and we can't hear you. Do we have any tech assistants that we could --

>> And it's worth pausing for a second in case he could call in.

[1:12:25 PM]

>> You know, I think that sometimes when you call in from phone, someone needs to move that person over so we can actually hear them. I don't know if that is underway. I know that when I have called in I'm often not able to talk.

>> He's not called in yet and we'll place the phone number and the event I.D. In the staff chat.

[1:13:27 PM]

>> That didn't work either. He tried to call in. So we still can't hear you, chief.

>> We can hear you now.

>> One thing that we have done in some of our committee meetings at times is to have somebody call --

>> Make sure to mute your audio, chief Manley, make sure to mute your audio on your computer.

>> Okay, my audio is muted on the computer now. Is this working?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> Well, after all of that effort and work and time that you all could be doing other things, I am sure hope that I have something profound to say now. I will keep my comments brief. I do appreciate you taking a moment to recognize me, although I would tell you that any of my accomplishments are just the -- the culmination of so many people that I've had the opportunity to work with through

[1:14:29 PM]

30 years. I have seen a lot of changes, as many of you have, in those 30 years. However, what has not changed is the determination, the compassion, the professionalism, and really just the integrity of the men and women that I've had the opportunity to serve with, both those in uniform and those not. We have been through difficult times together but the Austin police department each and every time comes through them, and I think that we're better for each and every challenge that we faced. You do have a department to be proud of, men and women that serve honorably. Again, those in uniform and our civilian team that we couldn't do it without. And so I am pleased that although I am leaving my formal role with the department, that prior to my departure that we were able to accomplish some things that were goals that I really wanted to hit before leaving. Primarily getting the organization ready to begin training again because we've got to get that underway. And I know that a lot of work went into that, the work by council, and the work by

[1:15:29 PM]

community members and especially so many professionals that I have at the department that have been working so hard to get us to this point. I am absolutely thankful for being given the opportunity to lead this organization. It has been the highlight of my professional career. And I will take many fond memories with me as I move on to whatever my next venture is. And I will take many friendships with me as well. I want to wish each and every one of you the best in your futures knowing that you will continue to serve and lead in what is one of the best cities in the country. And, again, just remind you that you have a dedicated group of men and women that every single day show up and give it their all

and do their best in very difficult times, keeping our community safe, and building those relationships that are so important.

[1:16:30 PM]

Mr. Manager, I want to thank you for putting your faith in me. I think that it was only a mere matter of weeks from your arrival here in Austin that you and I were standing together in the middle of some critical incidents involving officers or, unfortunately, in the bombings that were in our community. And we had the opportunity to get to know each other and I will forever be grateful for you placing your confidence in me and giving me this opportunity to serve as your chief. And as I have stated before, I will remain in the area, and I will continue to assist where I can in the continued efforts of our community and within the Austin police department as we continue to grow. So, again, thank you for the opportunity. I know that you all have a packed agenda and very little time to sneak in a lunch here. So I could talk forever and I won't, but I will just end with again my thanks and gratitude for this opportunity.

[1:17:33 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Chief, thank you. God's speed. Colleagues, it is 1:17. We're going to recess and take a lunch break and come back and listen to speakers who will queue up beginning at 2:00. You want to come back at 2:00, that's a little over 40 minutes, let's go ahead and do that. We'll adjourn at 1:17, the council comes back at 2:00. We have posted on the message board the items that we have yet to consider. So you can take a look at the message board. Colleagues, see you here at 2:00.

[1:42:00 PM]

[Music].

[Music].

[2:03:56 PM]

[Music].

[2:07:15 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: I'll reconvene the Austin city council meeting here at 2:07, March 25th, 2021. We have speakers that are signed up to speak at 2:00. We're going to start with those speakers. We'll take a vote on the consent agenda. If there are items that were pulled that we could handle quickly, we'll handle those and then we'll go into executive session. On executive session we have 113, 114, 87 and 43 are the four items that we're going to be going into executive session for, 113, 114, 87 and 43. And then we'll come back out and then handle any of the zoning cases that look like they might take longer and then see if we can get into the items that are left. Before we hear from the speakers that have signed up

[2:08:16 PM]

here at 2:00, councilmember kitchen, did you want to recognize something?

>> Kitchen: Yes. I wanted to take a minute and thank Mary Ann Neely for her service on the city's environmental commission. She has retired from that service after many, many years of serving the city. I'm not going to read the entire proclamation that I have for her, but I do want to read just the first line. Mary Ann Neely served on the city's environmental commission through the decades for many years and she was my appointee from district 5 from 2019 to 2020. She has been an environmental steward for areas of recharge and contributing lands as well as critical and environmental features essential to the recharge of the Edward's aquifer and the Barton springs pool. So she has provided leadership over the years in many, many environmental groups and I just want to

[2:09:19 PM]

thank her so much for her service. She's been on, save Barton creek association, Barton springs conservancy, clean water action, Icra. She's a master gardener. She's a board member of zilker botanical garden conservancy and the Barton hills garden club. So I just want to extend my thanks to her as she has much deserved retirement at this point, but I know she will continue to be involved as one of our environmental leaders. So I just wanted to share this with my colleagues and with her. Our thank you as we proclaim March 25th as Mary Ann Neely day. So thank you.

>> You're a mute, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you, Paige. Councilmember kitchen, thank you for doing that. It's hard to even think about those environmental efforts continuing without her at the helm.

[2:10:20 PM]

She's been such an important part for such a long period of time. Congratulations to her on retirement and those kinds of retirements kind of leave you breathless for a moment. Councilmember Renteria?

>> Renteria: Yes. And as someone who has served on the environmental board with Ms. Neely, I really want to thank her for all her service also. We accomplish a lot when I was serving with her. We created the retention ponds so we did a lot of good things, including what Ann mentioned and she's an outstanding person that had led the city on environmental issues. So I'm really proud of that and I want to thank her also and enjoy her retirement.

[2:11:25 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Staff I'm really good at hitting the mute button. Now we'll go to the speakers signed up in the 2:00 KVUE. I think there are a little less than 20. It's about three minutes each. And then we'll take a look at the consent agenda, Jerry. Clerk, if you want to recognize our speakers.

>> First speaker is Megan meissenbach.

>> This is Megan and I'd like to speak on item 94 and 95, the montopolis acres. I believe the neighbors have a valid petition and they really don't want this land use of multi-family among their single-family homes. So I hope our councilmembers will honor their wishes and honor their valid petition. Thank you very much.

>> Susana Almanza.

[2:12:34 PM]

>> Yes, go ahead. Susana Almanza can you hear me? This is Susana Almanza and I am president of the montopolis neighborhood plan contact team. And the contact team is opposing the rezoning of 1013 to 1017 montopolis drive. This particular property is zoned single-family three. When we came together and adopted our montopolis neighborhood plan in 2001 we had to do a lot of compromising with the city and we said that we would agree to have more apartments, which we didn't want, because we already had plenty, but that apartments would be established south of east Riverside drive and that the heart of the montopolis community will be preserved, preserved without single-family zoning. Lately we have been under siege by developers because of everything that's happening around montopolis and [indiscernible] That's coming in and bringing in a lot of development. People would still be in the

[2:13:35 PM]

urban core, but also 10 minutes away from Tesla, so this is negatively impacting our montopolis community. As you all know, Cesar Chavez was the first community to be gentrified, then the holly neighborhood and then govalle Johnston and the last one of course is montopolis, which has 33% of this population living in poverty and we have about 98% people of color community and it's predominantly spanish-speaking people. And the UT study of uprooted, which council commissioned, said if they're going to save anybody they should work on saving montopolis. And so we are urging all the city councilmembers to please honor our valid petition, which we have at 45%, and to keep our single-family zoning inside the montopolis community. Thank you.

>> Jonathan Davidson.

[2:14:39 PM]

>> Hello. My name is John Davidson. I live about two blocks away from the montopolis acres proposed rezoning property. I oppose is vehemently in large part because the developers that are doing these are -- in all these cases in this area, Austin neighbors have been vilified as nimby's and as anti-housing and anti-density, but in reality a simple investigation into the types of penalties that these developers are show them to be in many cases, for instance, 508 camp around the corner to be

[indiscernible] And pro trump, racist meals on their social medias and that's not like we're going to trust that developer. In the montopolis acres case the developer lives on a huge property in Westlake right by 360, 6,000 square foot house, six car garage, all these things that are,

[2:15:40 PM]

you know, being told to people that those are developable properties. He also has a property tax protest company that states on its website "We only take customers with houses worth at least half a million dollars." So I think that the city council, if they're going to give any kind of entitlements to developers, need to do a better job of vetting the developer and making sure they're the kind of developers that the neighborhood can trust. And for that purpose I am very anti-against this proposed development. Thank you.

>> Eric polis.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> Yes, go ahead.

>> Hello? Hi, I'm urging city council to oppose the rezoning at montopolis acres. I think it will be a terrible fit for the

[2:16:40 PM]

montopolis community. I think it will forever change the community in a negative manner. There are several reasons why this rezoning would be a bad idea for montopolis. Number one, it will exacerbate the already out of control development in montopolis. Two it will plop an enormous amount of density in a neighborhood not built to sustain that type of density and three, it will create more flash flooding pressure in an area prone to serious flash flooding that the city's watershed department is already having a really hard time trying to figure out how to correct this issue. Furthermore, I think the city needs to really reform the planning process. The planning commissioners at the meeting where they approved this, they cited as the major reason for this is because it was near a bus stop. That was just ridiculous. I have been attending contact team meetings and every single one I've been to where a developer has come to sell development they don't bring descriptions of their projects, necessity bring information about zoning codes. So it's like totally insulting to community to

[2:17:41 PM]

come to the community contact team and not bring any information about what they actually plan to do. And this has happened every single meeting I've been to. Not once have they actually brought anything real or substantive, but because they know they can usher it through the planning process. So this property would go across the street from the newly renovated montopolis rec center. I want the city councilmembers to think about what kind of message it would send to the community to immediately turn around and start allowing these huge complexes that will forever alter and destroy the community aspect of montopolis as soon as the montopolis rec center is finished. I think it would be a terrible message to send to the community. Thank you.

>> Noah Elias.

>> Hello. I'm calling to oppose the rezoning of 1013 montopolis, montopolis acres. The reason for this is that

[2:18:42 PM]

the more development we see in this community the more we're noticing, you know, who it's actually built for. You know, it's not built for our community, it's not built for our working class families that have grown up here in this community. You know, it's built for people with money and like other speakers said, it definitely changes our community, the makeup of our community. I understand that, you know, there's going to be development. What we would want is development that serves our community, serves our working class families, black and brown families that make up our neighborhood. And you know, that's the kind of development we want in our community. So I urge the city council to vote again

for this development, you know, to honor our valid petition and to look into buying such properties such as this,

[2:19:42 PM]

large lots that we have here in Montopolis and build low income housing for our members of our community who can no longer live here, no longer pay their taxes, that have to move away. So protect our community, stand with the neighbor in Montopolis and Metropolitan US fight displacement -- help us fight displacement. If you are really committed to this you would oppose these developments and back up our community. Thank you.

>> Nieka Arnold.

>> My name is Nieka Arnold. I'm the founder of the Landfillen project. I'm a born and raised Austinite originally born on Eastside. I'm a descendent of the members affected by the 1928 Master Plan and I'm here to oppose 1013 Montopolis. It's called displacement. It forces inequities against

[2:20:44 PM]

us as it always do. If y'all are for us, there's no way that this is for black and brown. Invest this into resource hub for black and brown people that are directly impacted. Direct cash assistance. Y'all are against us. These are for white people. Let's just be clear. White people mothers, black and brown people faces everyday and daily. We still face this. We don't anymore. I hope you can hear me and say this. Every district, one, two, three, four, beyond, councilmember, feel this. This is not for blab people. You understand that -- no black and brown people. We oppose that. We are fed up. We are tired of being displaced, abused, mistreated, not even like humans. We deserve a better quality of life today! And we are demanding, we are not asking no more everybody on this call, we are demanding. We are opposed of it. Build the projects and the

[2:21:44 PM]

low income that are facing no gas and water right now! Not the future ones! And we don't need developers that are funding the campaigns of the city reps. We don't need that and we need a law passed by that! So that won't whap to our babies, to our grandkids for all of us. We're tired. It's time for the black and browns to unit. If you are ready to unit go to the healing project.org and submit an email so we can do something. I'm tired of being on these calls. I've left the March. I'm ready for somebody from Austin Texas to be our voice in our state, not no Austin justice coalition. Somebody that know our pain that's on these calls. It's time for us to make the change and want justice. We want and demand

this S---. Excuse me. I'm tired. But we oppose it. And you don't even have to listen to these calls. You know we oppose it. We're not for it, it's against us. It's displacing us, it's

[2:22:47 PM]

deteriorating us black and brown people. This is a chance to pour into us. We're demanding you to pour into us. And I'm done. Peace.

>> Dick hall.

>> I'm dick hall for case number 99. We have worked with the neighborhood to get together a plan that we think is sensitive to concerns about the neighborhoods have, while also contributing some affordable housing to the city. It's been a positive experience gathering information about what concerns people in the neighborhood. I just want to say that I

[2:23:49 PM]

appreciate all of the input that they've had on the project. That's it for me.

>> David Boyle.

>> Hi. This is David Boyle. I'm a neighbor to the 4909 lot development and I'm here with Anthony day one of the neighbors. We were blindsided by this development and we're organizing a valid petition. As we were getting the signatures the developer reached out, so we are talking and right now we're discussing a fence between the development and the neighbors, an upkeep and liking of a path that would connect the neighborhood to the Springdale park and to save three big oak trees. We -- it looks promising,

[2:24:49 PM]

but we are not done negotiating yet. So I just was calling today to make sure that this was a first reading and that you weren't going to fast track it and go and vote on it today. Anthony, have you got anything to say?

>> Yeah, next to David here. Apologies for both of us being on the call, but I do want to say to the council in general as a resident of Austin, you know, we have full-time jobs. We're quite busy. And it was surprising to us to identify that the neighborhood association, the Springdale neighborhood association actually wrote a letter of approval to this development without actually checking with any of the neighbors that were directly affected by the development. No one spoke to any of the neighbors about the property directly. Not the developer initially nor the property association. I realize that people are

busy, but the developer has the resources to have it full-time people to push something like this through and I would urge the council to consider at some point --

[2:25:49 PM]

I don't know how this gets done, to re-examine how zoning approvals get done without actually checking with the neighbors who are directly bordering the property. As a result, David myself and some of the other neighbors are going to form our own local neighborhood association, but I do agree that we have started to work with the developer directly and we are reaching some agreements. One thing David did miss out is that we're also missing out on the developer paying for two and a half thousand linear feet of sidewalk so we are working with the developer, but I do get concerned as a resident of Austin on the process of how these projects are getting approved without the people who are directly impacted being consulted. You know, I spent three afternoons knocking on my neighbors doors to talk to them to get a valid petition, which we do have, but we have agreed with the developer not to file that valid petition while we're still in negotiation. And as David said, I want to underscore that this -- we request that this is just a first reading of this zoning rechange and while we continue to negotiate with

[2:26:49 PM]

the developer. Thank you.

>> Rachel McClure.

>> Mayor Adler: We had two speakers who just spoke. Were they both registered?

>> We only know of the first. The second person did not mention their name so they spoke within the three minutes.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Rachel McClure. We'll try her back. Gwen juvis.

>> Hello, this is Gwen.

[2:27:53 PM]

This is Gwen.

>> Go ahead, make your comments.

>> I'm speaking in regards to the north bluff project, which is I believe item number 104. The south central congress neighborhood contact team is working with Leah bow O', the developer's -- bojo, the developer's representative on that. This is only for a first reading basis because we do not have a restrictive covenant in place, we are continuing conversations with her. And she is aware of our concerns and I believe that you also have backup material on that. I would just like to highlight two things in particular. One is that north bluff is a substandard street. It's extremely narrow. There's no sidewalks and it's a speedy cut-through from I-35 to south congress so there's a lot of concern

[2:28:53 PM]

for people who would want -- who would need to park along the street to either access the future greenbelt area, the pleasant hill tributary, or be visitors to the residents who live on that new development. The second thing is about the impervious cover. It's rather maxed out from what it has been and so we just want to make sure that that concern is expressed. The second item I'd like to speak about is number 110, which again we're working with Leah on that is 6311 south first street. Right now I am against that development. We've been in discussions with Leah for some period of time and involved councilmember Vanessa Fuentes as well. We are really looking for more affordable housing there, and I can empathize with the people who are speaking about the montopolis projects for the

[2:29:54 PM]

same reason. There's a number of low income housing projects that are in that general vicinity. And with covid and the economy the way it's been, there are a lot of people in that area who are really hurting. Just doing what's required already by the land development code of the 10% at 80 mfi does nothing for the people in that neighborhood. We really need to be seeing affordable housing at 50 and 60% mfi. If we look at the average mfi's for that part of town as opposed to the citywide mfi, you will see that they are much lower. So that's something that we're continuing to work with her on. The other item is how we manage contractor parking during the project construction. There is the defunk H.E.B. At -- defunct H.E.B. At William cannon and south first street and that would

[2:30:55 PM]

be a great place for the developer's contractor to lease some parking spaces rather than to --

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> Okay, thank you so much.

>> Zenobia Joseph.

>> Thank you, mayor, councilmembers. I'm Zenobia Joseph. My comments are specifically related to item 90, which is 6215 and a half Johnny Morris road. It's specifically changing the zoning from r2 community commercial mixed use conditional overlay combining district zoning. I just want to call your attention to some information that was submitted to you by staff. In the staff report on page 7 it tells you specifically that connectivity is below standard. It tells you there's a

[2:31:56 PM]

capital metro bus stop within 100 feet and a pedestrian would have to walk in the road. I want to call your attention as well to the letter by the colony park neighborhood association, Ms. Scott, on pages 23 to 24, which specifically says we oppose the development that will lead to semi trucks whizzing past our elementary and middle school children as they talk to and from school along one road, one-lane road. These are semi trucks and they can't imagine that this would be acceptable at highland park orca cease elementary. I want to tell you that they also mentioned the mayor's task force on institutional racism and systemic inequities. Let me just be clear, mayor, I filed a title six complaint specifically for Johnny Morris road and craigwood because the bus runs every 60 minutes. There is no access for the pedestrians. It went to the U.S. Department of transportation and then capital metro added two hours to that bus route, but it's still unsafe. So what I want you to

[2:32:57 PM]

recognize is that it's not enough for you to apologize to black people for inequities from the past, if you are truly concerned about blacks then I want you to put this project on hold. The same black people who have supported you, naacp, Ashton customerbatch, they were all copied on this letter. I realize that you were on this case, but it is a grave injustice. And when the colony park neighborhood association opposes the project and you've already had one U.S. Department of transportation title six of the civil rights act of 1964 complaint, I think you need to take a pause. You are wanting 45% federal funding for project connect. And this is a clear example of where you are not complying with the spirit or the letter of title six which prohibits

[2:33:57 PM]

discrimination based on race, color and national origin. I want you to understand as well that Barbara Jordan elementary is just around the corner from this area. Ask the developer how many trucks will be in and out of this area until there is a sidewalk and safe pedestrian passage. It is unsafe. I want you to recognize also that Texas department of transportation has road to zero. Capital metro also took the pledge August 22nd, 2016, on or about, and it specifically talked about your vision zero goals. So if you

are truly committed to these statements that you keep making, then please, don't pass this item. I want you to take a pause, take a look at the safety concerns. Safety first, safety always, but --

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

[2:35:00 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Mayor pro tem?

>> Harper-madison: Thank you. I wanted to point out for Ms. Joseph that my office worked with the folks developing this property to remove the industrial zoning designation and it's mixed use housing instead. Also, our transit folks are letting me know now that Johnny Morris is getting prop B upgrades, in which case Ms. Joseph I would encourage you to reach out to Lauren and Caleb in the district 1 office. If you don't have anywhere respective email addresses you can just reach out to district1@austintexas.gov and Nikki will make sure they get it. Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Next speaker.

>> Rachel McClure.

[2:36:02 PM]

Rachel McClure, please unmute. Mario Cantu.

>> This is Mario Cantu. Can you hear me?

>> Yes, go ahead.

>> My name is Mario Cantu, chair of the south congress contact team. I will speak on two items, items 104, which is going to be 401 north bluff. We've been working with Leah bojo with this project. Our main concern is this is in close proximity to a tributary, that is almost like a creek area. So the main concern is the impervious cover that could possibly be increased in the back part of the homes that will increase even more impervious cover, which would increase more rain,

[2:37:03 PM]

more drainage, so we are working with her and making sure that that project doesn't create more impervious cover. As you know, major flooding has occurred very heavily in district 2. So that's a concern. Also, item 110, 6311 south first street. At this point in time we are against the zoning change on this and the reason why is that we want the 10% at 50% mfi. And just remember it's only for 40 years. It's not going to be 200 years. When you start to hear the numbers of 10%, 80% mfi, also

remember that this is in district 2, not in district 3. We're not in the south congress area, we're in close proximity and this project will be in the backyard of many homes, so it's a different area, a

[2:38:03 PM]

different type of ballgame. We ask for your support. As you've heard from many previous to myself speaking, this is a really big issue in Austin for affordable housing and we need to have this. We have to work with -- we would like to work with Leah bojo if needed but at this point I would request not to have the zoning change on this, because as it was stated to us, there's nothing else that they can do. Because maybe we need to get another applicant for this project that can provide real affordable housing to us and to district 2. Vanessa Fuentes, city councilmember, we've had previous conversations with her and with Leah bojo, just to be clear on day one we did offer her the 10% at 50% mfi and -- five percent at 50 and five percent at 60. She would not take any of that. And then as things and conversations occurred with Vanessa and just with people

[2:39:06 PM]

living and struggling and water shortages, food shortages, cash shortages, jobless individuals, people losing their family members and having to -- are being displaced, we've noticed very heavily that we have to get down to these numbers in order to provide affordable housing within not just this district, but within every district in the city of Austin. Just remember we've already had two things already. We've got covid on deck and we had the snowstorm on deck. I don't know if you're going to need a third thing to happen in order to figure out that we've got to really start doing something in the city for the individuals that live here. I mean, we've already gone through --

>> Speaker, your time has expired. Christopher xiro.

>> Councilmembers, city manager chronic, mayor Adler, thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

[2:40:07 PM]

I'm speaking in regards to the agent's request for postponement of item 105, sunrise mini mart rezoning. This has been a grassroots effort and has taken a significant amount of time away from our leg lives. Prior to obtaining a legal petition, we attended the zoning commission planning and canvassed the entire neighborhood, obtaining over 60 unique signatures. The agents and the applicant has notified of our opposition petition, but did not request a postponement. He only did so on less than 24 hours notice when he discovered that we were in fact able to solicit additional signatures required from the adjacent property owners for a legal petition. We feel that there is no benefit to the neighbors and public interest to postpone this interest any further and we encourage the council to conduct all three readings today.

We firmly believe this proposed zoning change does not promote the principles of the imagine Austin comprehensive plan. The neighborhood is comfortable with the existing commercial use.

[2:41:08 PM]

The property owners that have signed the valid petition believe that we do not need to saturate the neighborhood with an additional alcohol establishment. If liquor is desired it is available for purchase at warehouse liquors on south first street, a location only 0.4 miles away from the mini mart. That's a one minute drive or eight minute walk. Galindo is primarily a residential neighborhood and the proposed cs-1 zoning is said to have, quote, operating characteristics of traffic service requirements generally incompatible with residential environments, end quote. In obtaining nearly 70 unique signatures with both petitions, I have listened to the stories of property owners and renters in the area, but we all strongly oppose the proposed rezoning. Thank you all again for your time and for letting me speak and we look forward to your decision.

>> Charles pepper.

[2:42:09 PM]

>> Thank you. My name is Charles popper, I'm the property owner at 1205 San Antonio street, which is going to be directly affected by the proposed rezoning change at 416 west 12th street, item 107. My property shares an alleyway with delta kappa gamma, making it about 25 feet from their office. I've been a criminal defense attorney for 55 years practicing in the courthouse area. This area is dotted with 100-year-old houses that most have been converted into attorney's offices and offices of other professionals like dentists and cpas. The area west of Guadalupe has never felt like downtown and when you look to the eclectic houses and offices in the area, you would swear it's not downtown. Putting in am 360-foot skyscraper at 12th and San Antonio would certainly drastically and irrevocably alter this area. I've owned this property for the last nine years and during this time I've watched the St. David's foundation build a 60-foot 60 about 50 yards from me and also Texas association of counties build a 60-foot

[2:43:10 PM]

structure about the same distance. These buildings pale in comparison to the proposed building six times their height. As I said, I practice criminal defense, my practice has approximately 450 clients that make mostly middle and lower income austinites. I take pride in working hard to safeguard the rights of these less fortunate people in our community. I'm afraid that this building in giant building next to me could make it much harder for me to help my clients to the best of my abilities. I provide it with a good

working environment and providing good stops to my staff and that environment will be test and tried for them to ensure the noise and disruption that would come with a 360-foot tower. I completely understand the idea of urban density but as I think about it, big buildings started to permeate areas that are not downtown it seems more to me to be urban sprawl. Like I said, I've watched two 60-foot buildings constructed within 50 yards of my office and both have

[2:44:11 PM]

been able to weave their way into the fabric of this community. The each 300 feet on top of the 60-foot limit would ruin the tranquility of this arithmetic it would ruin a structure on the national register. It affected my law practice as well as making a bad environment for my staff. It would hurt my office as a building to be able to serve the citizens of Austin, many who have been left voiceless over the years. I strongly urge you to vote against the attempt to rezone and let this beautiful neighborhood remain without big skyscrapers. Thank you.

>> Blaker Tollett.

>> Yes, my name is Blaker Tollett. I'm also speaking on item 107, 1416 west 12th. I will -- first I will commend Charles popper for his work.

[2:45:11 PM]

The neighbors to this property support the city staff's recommendation. The city staff recommendation is for dmu, conditional -- co. 60-foot height development. The city staff recommendation is in line with the downtown Austin plan and this city council along with the city staff has cited the downtown Austin plan numerous times when making -- there's precedent for taking city staff's recommendations. Several years the owners of

[inaudible] Directly across the street from this property asked for their properties to be rezoned dmu-120. The city staff, the neighborhood association, and the closeby neighbors advocated for dmu-60 and that was the zoning district given. You are going to have before

[2:46:13 PM]

you hopefully later this afternoon a valid petition from these neighbors. We're asking -- the valid petition speaks directly to support of the city staff's recommendation of dmu-co, 60-foot entitlement on the building height. There's talk -- the applicant came to you three weeks ago, wanted to have all three readings at that time. You very graciously allowed a three-week postponement. We've taken very strong advantage of that. We've put together the petition. And again, it should be validated later today or at

least you should be told later today it is a valid petition. We're asking you to have the hearing today, at least first reading. We're asking you to support your city staff's

[2:47:13 PM]

recommendation and to support the valid petition. Thank you very much.

>> Holly reed.

>> Mayor and council, good afternoon. This is holly reed with the west Austin neighborhood group in district 10 regarding agenda items 108 and 109. The neighborhood plan amendment and rezoning request for Maudie's cafe and twin liquor store located on the corner of 7th street and Newman drive. The applicants for this rezoning case, neighbors who live near the property and members of our neighborhood plans contact team have attended multiple meetings of the west Austin neighborhood group, and all of them, including the applicant, support retaining our neighborhood plan's current land use designation

[2:48:16 PM]

for this property, which is neighborhood commercial. We want these existing small local businesses to remain in this location as they are an important part of our community, and altering our neighborhood plan's future land use map from neighborhood commercial to commercial for the entire property could encourage the loss of the small businesses which our community values. Therefore we do not support a neighborhood plan amendment for this entire property and ask if there must be a neighborhood plan amendment that the council please restrict 2npa to areas only requested for the rezoning. Regarding item 109, the rezoning request, in order to facilitate the reorientation of the existing small businesses within their current spaces, rezoning from cf to cs-1 mp,

[2:49:18 PM]

we ask the council approve this item 109 for the rezoning request. Thank you.

>> Michael kanotty.

>> Good afternoon, councilmembers, mayor Adler. I'm speaking as chair of the central west Austin neighborhood contact team on items 10 and 109. The Maudie's east twin liquors rezoning. I want to note with appreciation that y'all have honored Mary Ann Neely are the proclamation today. I've been a big fan of hers for years and to hear she was being honored. Five years ago today you all honored

her husband Craig Smith for his environmental work. This is a pretty high-powered proclamation family between Mary Ann and Greg. I am speaking on behalf of the contact team on item 108

[2:50:18 PM]

and 9 to say we support the zoning change, but the Flum amendment we would request be denied. We think it should be retained as neighborhood commercial. The applicant or property owners agrees, but a city staff is requesting a change is desired. As a compromise, I understand Jerry rusthoven is proposing a Flum amendment that would be limited to the zoning footprint. And if that is a compromise, that's acceptable to council, that would probably be acceptable to our neighborhood plan contact team as well. So we are at the end of the day supporting the zoning change because we love Maudie's and we would support a footprint Flum amendment if that would be the best way to resolve this to everybody's satisfaction. Thank you all. Good-bye.

>> Kena Miller.

[2:51:23 PM]

>> Good afternoon everyone. This is Kena Miller. I'm calling in from the south congress combined neighborhood contact team. And I'm piggybacking on to comments of my colleagues Gwen and Mario on item 110. We have been in discussions with the applicant for quite some time. At this time we are not in favor of the development because of affordability, number one. Number two, it's going to be a five-story building they are plan to go build right next to single-story single-family homes. Early report on the mix of units include 22 efficiencies, 260 total apartments with 22 efficiencies, 99 one-bedrooms, 26 two-bedrooms, five live/work units and only three

[2:52:23 PM]

three-bedroom units for families with the offer of 5%, 50 and 5% 60 mfi. That leaves no room for any of the three-bedroom units for the reduced mfi for families who need it the most. What we need the most is housing for those that live there, not housing for people that do not live in Austin yet. They are also looking for a pass on providing adequate parking for everybody and the neighborhood is not in favor of this considering all of the traffic and parking issues in that area currently. So we would ask that if council plans to move forward today, it would only be at first reading and we would like to continue negotiating with the developer. Ultimately we would hope that you would deny this rezoning request, but we are still willing to work with the applicant to move forward at a better understanding of building something in that area for the residents that need it.

[2:53:27 PM]

That concludes my comments. Thank you so much.

>> Jonathan Davidson.

>> Yeah, I would like to speak again on the Montopolis acres rezoning. I'm not sure if I got cut off or not before, but I just wanted to reiterate that the city council, I think, needs to in fact recruit developers for some of these projects rather than just essentially letting anyone come in and do some of these more gentrification eccentric developments. I think that some of the work done, I know it was a city owned property on the Chalmers courts, the affordability levels are much more in line than what we need to look at here. Nothing is ever good enough and I totally understand

[2:54:28 PM]

that's what it sounds like from our point of view, but it really is true that it hasn't even approached good enough as far as public trust, communication with the neighborhood, and in fact we're never even given any idea of what these projects even are going to look like. I think the developers need to be required to put more work into rendering perhaps models so the neighborhood can sort of get a better idea of what exactly they want to do. These big ideas, we'll do this, but it will only do this or we'll do this, but it will only do this. It's just not good enough. These are such permanent decisions. I see Montopolis changing by the hour and it's less scary for me but for people who have lived there a long time it's scary as hell. I stand by them and I like to consider myself one of them as much as possible and the conversations I have within this neighborhood are

[2:55:28 PM]

the ones that I'm going to have with you. So thanks for your time.

>> Mayor, that concludes all of the 2:00 P.M. Speakers.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Jerry, do you want to take us through the consent agenda?

>> Sure, Mayor. If I may, before we go through the consent agenda, I have one zoning case for consent, item 91. However, we would need to do the annexation item, 73. If I can lay out 73 and get a quick vote, I can include that in the consent agenda.

>> Mayor Adler: That sounds good or call them both and we'll vote on them together?

>> The law department is asking for a vote on the one before we do the rest of them. I think we need to separate them. I'll do it quickly. Item 73, conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance for full-purpose

[2:56:30 PM]

annexation of approximately 24 acres and authorize a negotiation and execution of a written agreement with the owner for the provision of services. If I could get a motion to approve that and close the public hearing, we can move on to the consent agenda.

>> Mayor Adler: Is there a motion to approve this and close the public hearing? Councilmember Fuentes and councilmember Kelly seconds. Those in favor? Those opposed? It's our entire council. Approving.

>> Mayor?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> Oh, never mind. He's on video now. Thank you.

>> So mayor, the consent agenda, mayor and council, Jerry rusthoven with housing and planning department. First item is item 88, I can offer for consent approval on second and third readings. C14h-2002-0010. Next is item 89, this is

[2:57:31 PM]

case number c14-2020-0116, consent approval on third reading. Councilmember kitchen has additional conditions. Those conditions are the Austin transportation department memorandum regarding this property, also known as the atd memo, shall be kept on file a the development services department. City staff must consider and follow the atd memo in making decisions regarding transportation requirements for the development unless alternative mitigation systems proposed that comparatively protect the safety of students and pedestrians. And the city manager is directed to identify the findings and recommendations of the fm 1626 preliminary engineering report being incorporated into the actual projects by txdot or other agencies and identify what is yet to be funded/programs

[2:58:32 PM]

in the four years since the program was completed and to summarize what transportation improvements have been constructed or required to be constructed due to mitigations from the approved developments of the fm old San Antonio road and the period since the fm1626 preliminary engineering report was completed and identify the transportation infrastructure needs in the fm1626 old San Antonio road not mentioned in the report due to increased development activity and now are identified in the city council adopted Austin strategic mobility plan. Also to include the Austin transportation department, public works department, watershed, parks and recommendation and any

other relatively departments in this comprehensive work as well. Review and prioritize talk and master plans and identify mechanisms which improvements can be made and identify previously funded work that are applicable and can contribute to this work and identify funding

[2:59:32 PM]

mechanisms that have not been utilize, and finally report the works of this so council no matter than October 21, 2021. The conditions I can offer for consent on third reading.

>> Kitchen: Mayor, if I may give a two-second comment. Basically these -- these are conditions that relate to the safety of old San Antonio road which runs by Akins high school. And these are the same -- these are the same conditions that I highlighted when we passed it last time.

>> Mayor Adler: Which number is this, Jerry?

>> That was item number 89.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember kitchen moves passage of 89 with that comment. Was there a second? Councilmember pool seconds. Any discussion? Those in favor please raise your hand. Those opposed? It's unanimous on the dais. 89 passes.

[3:00:32 PM]

Is that the only consent item on the agenda?

>> No, I'm sorry, I was reading those conditions. I'll try to keep that on consent. I was just reading those conditions in. We'll go back to overall consent. So we've already read 88. That's consent for second and third readings. Item 90, c14-2020-0091, I can offer for consent on second and third readings. 91 was related to the annexation cast just approved. C14-2020-0138, I can offer for consent on all three readings. Item 92, c14-2020-0122, I can offer this case for consent on all three readings. Item 93, c14-2020-0123, a can offer for consent on all three readings. Number 94, npa-2020-005.01,

[3:01:32 PM]

a P.M. Request to the milk account. Related says 95, a postponement request by the applicant also to April 22, 2020. Item number 96 has been withdrawn and replaced by item number 115. Likewise item 97 withdrawn and replaced on the addendum item 98, a postponement request by the neighborhood to April 8th. It is the first request. Item 99, c14-two-0135, I can offer for consent on first reading only. Related case is item 100, npa-2021, 0015.04. Sh, consent on first reading only. Sum 101, this is an

[3:02:33 PM]

indefinite postponement request by applicant. Related case number 102, also an indefinite postponement request by the applicant. Item number 103, case c14-two, 0152, P.M. Request by councilmember Fuentes. Item 104, I can offer this for consent approval on first reading only. Item number 105, c14-2021, 0007, this is a postponement request by the applicant to April 8th. It is the first request. Item 106, I can offer this case for consent approval on all three readings. Item number 107, c14-2020, 0112, this is a postponement request by the applicant to may 6. It is the first request. Item number 108, npa-2020,

[3:03:40 PM]

0027.01, this is the Austin liquors case. I can offer this case for consent approval on all three readings with the condition that the agreement I worked out with all parties, the neighborhood plan amendment, the Flum to commercial will match the area of the rezoning case and be no more. The related item item 109 which is the zoning case, I can offer for consent on all three readings. 110, c14-2020, 0134, councilmember Fuentes asked for a presentation by the applicant. That case would be pulled for that presentation. Item number 115, npa-2020, 0025.01, consent approval on all three readings. And number 116 -- I'm sorry,

[3:04:41 PM]

I don't have the case number. That's the related zoning case. I can offer 116 for consent approval on all three readings. That leaves the only discussion case item number 110 which councilmember Fuentes has asked for Ms. Lee I can't bojo to do a presentation on.

>> Mayor Adler: Item 101 was indefinite postponement? 101.

>> Yeah, 101 and 102 were both indefinite. The consent agenda is everything except for item 110. Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda? Councilmember Renteria -- no, councilmember Ellis makes the motion. Is there a second to the consent agenda? Councilmember Kelly seconds. The consent agenda is in front of us.

[3:05:42 PM]

Councilmember Renteria.

>> Renteria: Yes. Thank you, mayor. I just want to let the applicants know that on item 94, 95 and 105 that's in my district, that if they have a valid petition, I recommend you work very hard with the neighborhood because most likely not going going to pass council and you are just going to be wasting your time. That's my recommendation to them. I'm not going to be items that have valid petitions without knowing there was extreme effort for them to go out and reach out and work with the neighborhood. So that's my recommendation.

>> Mayor Adler: Further discussion on the consent

[3:06:43 PM]

agenda? Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: Jerry, I wanted to confirm what you put forward for 108 matches the zoning.

>> Yes.

>> Alter: Thank you for working with my office for a solution on this issue.

>> Sure.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember kitchen? >>

>> Kitchen: Just confirming so the public understands 98 is consent postponed. So it's being [inaudible].

>> Yes, 98 we have a postponement request by the applicant to April 8th and it's on the consent agenda.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: For the postponement of the montopolis items, 94 and 95, is there a date that would come back or indefinite?

>> Mayor Adler: I'm sorry, go ahead, Jerry.

>> I was about to say the applicants requested April 22 for both of those.

>> Fuentes: Okay. Thank you.

[3:07:43 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: I announced this at the other relevant meetings, but I'm recused on 101 and 102 which I think are being offered for indefinite postponement and it wasn't clear whether 107 is on consent. That's the delta gamma case, but I'm also recused on that as well.

>> Yes, councilmember --

>> Mayor Adler: I missed what you said, but I'm sure the clerk heard it.

>> Tovo: Shall I say it again? I was reminding the dais I'm recused on 101 and 102 which are on the consent agenda and 107, it wasn't clear whether that was or was not on agenda for approval. That's the delta gamma case, but I'm recusing.

>> Mayor Adler: It's become postponed.

>> Tovo: Ditto even if it's a postponement.

>> Mayor Adler: Understand. Thank you.

[3:08:44 PM]

Consent agenda has been moved and seconded. Those in favor? Those oppos? Okay. While we're here, do we want to hear the description on 110 or go into executive session? Yes, councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: I requested a brief overview by the applicant. As you may have heard from constituents who raised concerns about affordability, I think it's important she shares information.

>> Mayor Adler: Is she available?

>> Marry, this is Jerry rusthoven, I just requested move her over. She was actually on a call for a different case so I think she's still on the line for that different case. We can move her over for this one.

>> Mayor Adler: Sounds good. Then we'll go into executive session.

>> Hello, mayor and council. This is Leah bojo.

[3:09:45 PM]

Am I moved over in.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> I'm here representing the applicant in this rezoning for 6311 south first street. Is my presentation up?

>> [Inaudible].

>> Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: Your presentation is up.

>> Okay. So we can go ahead and move to slide 2. Which is to orient everybody to this site, it's located at the northeast corner of south first and Eberhart lane and it is currently

[3:10:46 PM]

vacant land. Moving to slide 3, you can see a zoning map. You can see other grmu nearby and an additional dmu site to the north. As I understand it, this neighborhood planning team did not go through the vmu opt-in process back when that process was happening in 2007 and 2008. So all of the vmu projects are happening through rezoning. Moving on to slide 4, the future land use map is already mixed use so there's no change for the Flum. Just the zoning case. Here you can see in slide 5 the site is adjacent to several cap metro stops including route 10 which is north-south as well as east-west, so it's an excellent transit served site for multi-family. Slide 6 shows our current entitlement are gr-mu-co, we are proposing to add the V.

[3:11:51 PM]

Grmuvnp. Pawn shop services, automotive washing and automotive sales. When we applied, we applied without a co. Staff asked us to keep that co which are agreeable to. When we went to planning commission, if you look at slide 7, you can see the planning commission suggested we incorporate additional prohibited uses that the neighbors were requesting which we are also agreeable to. You can see we've additionally added alternative financial services, bail bonds, outdoor entertainment and sports and recreation, hotel, motel and service station. Moving on to slide 8, this is the proposed -- summary of our proposed project. A stand vmu overlay compliant project. The height is 60 feet. That is not changing with zoning. This would have ground floor pedestrian oriented uses. Somewhere around 260 units. I think the number is still fluctuating as we work through some design. And it would be a mix of one

[3:12:52 PM]

and two-bedroom units located on a high frequency route. Looking at slide 9, this slide is very specifically called out in the neighborhood plan which we were pleased to see as a good location for a mixed use project outside of downtown. Moving on to slide 10, I think this is sort of the important part here for everyone. As you know, the vertical mixed use overlay requires 10% at 80% mfi and so that is what the code would require with this V. As some of the neighbors discussed earlier, we have been working with them for many months trying to come to some agreement on what affordability is appropriate here. What we have come to is 5% at 50, 5% at 60, and then 25% at 80. And that would have to happen, of course, through a private restrictive covenant with an affordable housing nonprofit because it's further than what staff --

[3:13:53 PM]

sorry, code would require. But we are comfortable making this commitment. I appreciate the neighbors' efforts to ask for more affordable housing, but unfortunately we are maxed out at this level at this time. Moving on to slide 11, there has been a few other requests that the neighbors have made which we are agreeable to. One is \$25,000 to some neighborhood parks. One would be committing to an on site outdoor pet facility. And then also a point of -- a point of contact for during the construction period. Obviously that's pretty far away, but -- but at this point what we can say is that we can provide a direct line to the neighbors at that time so that, you know, if there's questions or issues that come up she they would be able to reach someone and talk to them about it. Moving on to slide 12, there is an existing site plan approved on a site today. It was approved in 2019 for multi-family under the current mu overlay.

[3:14:54 PM]

This is sort of the overall information about it. I think the important thing to point out is that this approved project does not include any affordable units, it's an entirely market rate project because, you know, of course the mu does not require an affordable commitment. Moving on to slide 13, I put together what I thought would be a helpful side by side comparison of these two projects. Just mostly things I've already discussed, but just to see them side by side, particularly the all market rate as compared to affordability commitment we're here to make today. Slide 14, as I said, this is an approximation, and I almost hesitate because it's still in the works, but I think this it was helpful showing how the units break out by affordability level. You can see almost all of the additional units that we would be getting through the V would be affordable. I think the additional units is going to be somewhere around, you know, 100 give or take. And under this proposal, it looks like about 93 of them

[3:15:55 PM]

would be -- would be income restricted. Some of those are at 80% I've heard and I understand that the neighbors are not as interested in the 80% units, but, you know, they would be income restricted at 80%. The 25% of them would be as well as the 5% at 50 and the 5% at 60, and that would be for a 40-year commitment which is standard for rental. While that may not be as significant today as they would like, I would say that that would be held into the future, which I think would be helpful. So then we can move on to slide 15 and just my request here is that you support the zoning case. We did have staff support and full support from the planning commission and I hope we have full support today on first reading. Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Colleagues, is there a motion on item 110?

[3:16:58 PM]

Yes, councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: I make a motion and also just wanted to say a few comments on the motion.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Approval of 110, seconded by councilmember Ellis. Councilmember Fuentes, do you want to address it?

>> Fuentes: Yes, the contact team and the applicant will be working on the restrictive covenant, as she mentioned, there was a few other additional things like worked out. And while this doesn't get with the neighborhood wanted, 10% at 50% mfi, there is the tiered level of 25% at 80% mfi and 5% at 60 and 5% at 10%. They are going to continue working together and I look -- I will be voting yes and look forward to second and third reading.

>> If I could clarify, this is approval on first reading only, correct?

>> Fuentes: Correct.

>> Thank you. And to close the public hearing.

>> Mayor Adler: Motion is

[3:17:59 PM]

to approve on first reading only, close the public hearing. Councilmember pool.

>> Pool: Thanks. I wanted to ask Ms. Bojo, I appreciate the side by side. It looks like a nice change to the original application. The 25,000 for support for parks. Could you pull up that slide -- you probably don't have to pull up the slide. I would like to see if we might be able to improve that number between now and third reading. I can't tell if Leh is still on. Is that something you would be willing to talk with me and my staff about?

>> I am still on and happy too talk to you and your staff. That is in addition to our parkland dedication requirement. So that would be an additional give to the neighbors, but I'm more than

[3:18:59 PM]

happy take chat with you all about it, of course.

>> Pool: I think that would be really great if we could have that conversation and maybe boost that 25,000. I understand it's on top of parkland dedication, but we haven't changed those parkland dedication fees since we last established them which was some time ago, four or five years ago. And so let's have a conversation and see when we bring this back there might be a larger gift you all could offer.

>> Sound great.

>> Pool: Does that sound good?

>> Fuentes: Absolutely. Thank you.

>> Pool: Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Motion in front of us, it's been moved and seconded. First reading only, close the public hearing. Let's take a vote. Those in favor raise your hand. Those opposed? It's unanimous on the dais. It passes. That's good. That gets us into executive session.

[3:20:00 PM]

It appears to me one item or two items requested in executive session? 87, is that the only one requested?

>> Mayor, we have 87, which we had on there, and item 43 has been pulled off. Councilmember alter requested an executive session.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: Mayor, if I might be indulged, whether or not we need executive session depends on what councilmember harper-madison's concerns are. This is a real estate transaction. But I have yet to hear directly what her concerns are or what she's proposing. And depending on what that is, we may need to go into executive session and it's the same people as for some of the other items. It will be good to do that together, but maybe we could hear from her.

>> Mayor Adler: Is that okay with you, mayor pro tem? Do you want to articulate your basis for the motion to

[3:21:00 PM]

postpone?

>> Harper-madison: The propose with articulation is that [inaudible]. I wasn't expecting --

>> Mayor Adler: It's one of Murphy's laws.

>> Harper-madison: I have some general concerns about the purchase. And I wonder if it might be prudent to take it into executive session.

>> Mayor Adler: Let's take it into executive session. With that, colleagues, the city council will now go into closed session to take up two items pursuant to 551-point 072 and 071 of the government code to discuss real estate matters and legal issues related to 87, which is the exchange lease or value interest in

real estate for historic preservation, affordable housing. And also item 43, which is the parkland acquisition.

[3:22:03 PM]

Without objection, we'll go right on over directly to the executive session. After executive session, we may take a short break and let people run to the restroom, then we'll come back out to the council meeting. When we come back out to the council meeting, the items we have yet to take care of are items 43, item 67, and then the four items that are the vacation and the F.A.R. Items that Wille preceded with kind of a general conversation. And then we have the APD items that we will hear beginning with speakers at 6:00. Trying to take a dinner break between 5:00 to 6:00 if we can actually get there. I'll see you guys over in executive session. 3.22 this meeting is recessed for executive session.

[5:06:17 PM]

... ..

[6:21:07 PM]

Council meeting here March 25, 2021, it is 6:20. Apologies to those that are in the speaker queue to start at 6:00. I appreciate you being back here. We will try to take care of a few items before we get to the speaker queue. I want to announce we're out of closed session. In closed session we discussed real estate matters and issues related to item 87 and 43. Um ... Before we get to the speakers queue, I think we will try to entertain some things that should be quick. If they're not quick, then we'll hold them off until after the speakers, councilmember alder, do -- alter would you like to move item 43.

>> Alter: I would like to make a motion to item 43 and if I have a second I will make some

[6:22:09 PM]

remarks.

>> Mayor Adler: There is a second. Go ahead.

>> Alter: I'm glad to see this move forward with the acquisition in my district. Along with the other parkland acquisitions in districts 1, 3, 5, which we approved earlier in the day, I'm looking forward to approving additional ones in the eastern crescent in the upcoming months. This acquisition is located on

bull creek and includes the creek and a bluff line and tributaries that go into the creek. Acquiring bull creek is in the council adopted long range plan our parks our future, adopted unanimously by Austin city council in 2019. This acquisition will provide a signature park and scenic overlook for this trail system with views from the hill country to the northwest and provide a major trail head with additional parking, trail amenities lacking along

[6:23:12 PM]

spicewood road. I want to thank my colleagues for the support on this investment. I look forward to moving forward for creating a valuable assets for austinites to enjoy for generations to come. Thank you so much.

>> Mayor Adler: This is moved and seconded. Ready to take a vote. Those in favor, raise your hand. Those opposed. Cathy, how are you voting.

>> Tovo: I thought I had my camera on. I'm voting yes.

>> Mayor Adler: It is unanimous, that item passes. Let's look at item 67, the review. Councilmember tovo, you posted amendments. You want to make your motion inclusive of the amendments?

>> Tovo: Yes, I would, thank you, mayor. I have a question for councilmember Casar.

[6:24:15 PM]

It wasn't clear to me where exactly he wanted to add that amendment. I did sort of summarize it and add it to the first be it resolved which is about the council review not the audit. Councilmember Ellis asked a question that made it sound like maybe it was in the audit. In any case, I will move approval of my motion with those amendments.

>> You are muted.

>> Mayor Adler: Is there a second to the motion? Councilmember alter sections the motion. Any discussion, councilmember Casar.

>> Casar: Councilmember tovo, I did in the message board post -- it may not have been clear -- I wanted to put it in the first be it further resolved in the audit section. We conferred with the auditor and thought it would work. I know you have references to communication, but it is a significant enough issue that I thought calling it out this way makes sense.

[6:25:15 PM]

I wanted to see if that is still ok with you.

>> Tovo: Sure, I will have to think about -- let me just -- let me just figure out ... Which line to put that on. Sorry. I'm doing this while holding the phone with one hand. We had a very, very short dinner break. Councilmember Casar, then I think what -- could you propose a suggestion while I'm looking for that, that would take the language that I have now inserted into the first be it resolved that is talking about the general review, what I'd like to do then is revert back to the original language which said communications, take out all the additional language that was responsive to your amendment and just move it down to the

[6:26:16 PM]

appropriate place in the audit section. Maybe you have that up in front of you and could say which line that was going to? Are we all comfortable if I just provide that as direction and we work with the clerk to insert it in the right spot later?

>> Casar: That's fine with me if it is fine with the staff.

>> Tovo: You're comfortable with that approach? I took your language and merged it a little bit with some of my own, but I think I still captured the intent.

>> Mayor Adler: Explain it one more time. And I'm looking for Ann on here, I can't see her.

>> Tovo: I can sort it out quickly we can lay it on the table and come back to it.

>> Mayor Adler: That sounds good. Anything else to consider about this before we move on. Councilmember Kitchen and then councilmember Ellis.

>> Kitchen: I wanted to propose just a few words to

[6:27:17 PM]

change, just to acknowledge that we have a number of committees that have begun this work and will be continuing this work including the mobility committee, water oversight committee and Austin energy committee. On the be it resolved -- there is -- let me start by saying I appreciate this resolution. There is so much we need to delve into. So I don't consider this to be duplicative. I just think that to respect our staff's work and all of our work that we just need to be sure that we coordinate and that we don't duplicate. So where the be it resolved it says the city council will conduct a series of focused conversations, that be it resolved. It says the draft plan -- I am wanting to capture in here that this work will be done in collaboration with the committee work and not duplicative. So it might be something like

[6:28:18 PM]

the draft work plan and schedule appear as exhibit a and will be coordinated with the work of various council committees.

>> Tovo: In the original -- I'm sorry, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: I was going to ask a question about that. I want to participate in all of the council sessions that are dealing with the review of the disasters. And what I liked about this is what I thought is that we would all be gathering together um. I'm a little concerned if I have to go to all -- if the council will have to go to each one of the committee meetings as well. I wonder if they can be on top of each other then. If the water committee can be held at the same time as this?

>> Kitchen: We've had two meetings so far -- or we've had one meeting so far and one scheduled on March 31st, with Austin energy, and the

[6:29:20 PM]

water oversight committee. Those were attended and available for everyone to attend. So we've already started this work. And then the water oversight committee is meeting in April. And we'll be sure and coordinate the work. So it's just that I don't think that we should -- I want to recognize this work has already been begun. We had a great mobility committee meeting the other day that looked into -- I'm sorry -- about transportation. So all I'm suggesting is that just acknowledging that we're all going to work together in a way that's not requiring people to go to a bunch of different meetings.

>> Mayor Adler: That would be great. So if we can schedule when the mobility or housing is doing a hearing on this, let's schedule it at the same time that the council is meeting.

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: So that we're not having to put extra days on our calendar beyond the ones we're otherwise meeting as a group.

>> Kitchen: Yes. And the other thing that may happen is the committees may

[6:30:22 PM]

have the time to delve into, you know, a few of these issues in more detail, so that can happen, too.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Tovo: I just wanted to talk about the language a little bit. In the original amendment [lapse in audio].

>> Mayor Adler: You've muted. You've muted. We can hear you now.

>> Tovo: I don't know if others had feedback on that point. But back to when we passed the amendment, there was language saying it would be coordinated with the committed tees, and my thoughts in my draft schedule had some of the Austin energy conversations happening at the Austin energy committee meeting which we're all attending. The chair had other items on that agenda, and after a conversation with chair pool, it didn't seem like that was a path that was going to work for her. So I am back to -- I switched

[6:31:22 PM]

gears now, and my proposal today is that we take either one whole day, or two half days, and go through the work plan as I've laid out and as others might want to tweak, either today or after today, and we have that conversation all together. And then, you know, after that point, if different committees want to take on different pieces and look in more depth, that's fine. I just felt like this was easier than -- one, I think it would be really challenging to ask everybody to go to all of the different committees that are taking up the issue. And my intent is just to have one conversation as a full council and do it in a time-efficient manner as possible. I can talk more about what I hope to achieve here in a minute before we vote. I think at this point, with the understanding committees may delve into areas in a more depth -- you know, I would stick

[6:32:24 PM]

to the plan of having this comprehensive review take place with our whole council, and to do it all as a piece, rather than parse it out.

>> Mayor Adler: And if the water committee wanted a hearing on top of this special called meeting, that would certainly be allowed as well.

>> Tovo: That would be great.

>> Mayor Adler: Yeah. Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: I have two questions primarily for city manager. I was hoping that maybe he could shed some light on this to clear things up. I wonder if you could speak to the work already being done mentioned in this resolution and what gap it fills or doesn't fill. And I have one more question after that. Thank you.

>> Thank you, councilmember. As you know, there are many action reviews that are being conducted by our departments, not only within our utilities, Austin water, Austin energy, but also by our emergency operations

[6:33:24 PM]

center, as we would in any historic event like this. And so those are being conducted, you know, as we speak, and we'll be able to provide that information to the council, the community as that gets finalized. We also know that we are not going to be the only ones looking at this. So we have initiated third-party reviews as part of this process, both with the utilities, Austin water and Austin energy. There is already work happening within our departments and within staff. And I have talked to councilmember tovo, the author of this, and ensured we are going to be complementing, and that data point, and the information that is coming from these reviews will be part of this process, because that is critical information to be coming from staff with any additional review.

>> Thank you for answering that. My second question is, will doing any of this additional work take away from any other initiatives that you currently have or place any additional

[6:34:25 PM]

burden on you or your staff? And if so, what?

>> You know, I think as the conversation evolves just defining the scope of this ifc and resolution that it entails, I know that part of the discussion is still going to the audit and finance committee and further refining for the auditor and what she would do in her capacity. And depending on that scope, it would impact potentially any additional work that would be coming from staff. So it's unclear at this point what that scope of work might look like.

>> Kelly: Okay. Would you please keep us posted on that? And thank you so much, councilmember, tovo, for bringing this forward. I think it's so important. I just wanted to make sure it wouldn't be undue burden on staff.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Ellis?

>> Ellis: Thank you. I think this is a really important conversation. That's why I pulled it for the work session and I wish we had a little more time to -- I think

[6:35:25 PM]

there were a couple of topics, and they're all very important. But my two main concerns were, how does this intertwine with the work the auditors department is already tasked with, knowing that we do approve the annual plan. So I didn't know which parts of all these important conversations that the auditor would be specifically tasked with, and which parts would be the task force, or the committees. So I wanted to get a better feel for that. Just so that I could really sign off on this and support it and have a better understanding of some of those parameters. Is that still --

>> Mayor Adler: We can't hear you, councilmember tovo.

>> Tovo: I think part of your question was about the auditor. And I know that councilmember alter, who chairs that committee, and I have only had a brief conversation. She might want to speak to this in more depth.

[6:36:25 PM]

I do think we will need to refine this with the auditor at the audit and finance committee, and all are welcome to join us in that conversation. What I've listed as topics of interest, I've added that language at the suggestion of the auditor, and councilmember alter, to make it clear that we're not going to be able to hit -- the auditor will not be able to hit all these things. We'll not be able to hit all of that. My intent is what are the pieces of this that are really best handled by the auditor. What's the information we as a council in our open sessions and the community, at the community task force, are not likely -- what are the pieces of information that they're not likely to get. So, you know, I think we'll use that premise to really refine what the auditor is looking at. And I do think that the auditor will have to get some guidance from the audit and finance committee about what topics, what -- how to balance the work load.

[6:37:25 PM]

Likely one or more audits will be delayed. But I think chair alter might have more info to add. And maybe we can circle back. Because I think you had another question that I just need clarification around.

>> Ellis: I did notice the co-sponsorship and committee there was some overlap. I thought maybe we just hadn't gotten a chance to talk through it. I think it's a good resolution with great topics that do need to be addressed and just wanted to understand more of the responsibility of what is staff already doing, what is an auditor's responsibility, what are we taking on, just so we kind of know who's holding which part of this process, so that no one gets confused along the way and doubles up or forgets to do something.

>> Mayor Adler: Sounds good. Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: Thank you. I think councilmember tovo addressed it pretty well. Thank you, councilmember Ellis for raising it. The auditor is online, but I

[6:38:26 PM]

think that we have it pretty well covered. I did ask for some amendments, because it's pretty clear the auditor's office is not going to be able to do that full scope. We'll be meeting next week, I believe on the 31st, and we have time on our calendar in audit and finance where we'll try to narrow it down, and

hopefully we'll be able to begin that scoping process at that meeting. We will have to come back with an amendment to the audit plan for what audit, or audits will not be done, and which ones we'll be subbing in. Some of our covid audits may be premature, given that we're still in covid. So those may be able to be bumped a little bit in terms of time. And we have had some preliminary conversations of what that might look like, and we will have that conversation -- at least start that conversation at audit and finance next week. As this evolves, I am more than

[6:39:29 PM]

willing to take up topics in audit finance, particularly interested in our emergency operations plans. And I think that's a good one for audit and finance to have some additional conversations, depending on how the broader questions go. And we anticipate this is going to not be a short-lived process.

>> Mayor Adler: And to the degree that something would come up in audit and finance, that the whole group would be interested in, we need to move that also to the whole meeting, so that other people don't have to put the audit and finance on their calendar. But certainly a deep dive on any of those issues are fair game for people to do in their committees. It's 6:40 now. And if this is going to be a longer conversation, I'm going to lay it on the table and we'll pick it up after we hear the speakers. I think that might be the appropriate thing to do. I'll lay this one on the table for right now, we'll come back to it. Was there a quick motion,

[6:40:29 PM]

councilmember tovo, that you wanted to make on the F.A.R. I tempts?

>> Tovo: There is. Do you want to wait or just deal --

>> Mayor Adler: We'll put it on the table and pick it back up.

>> Colleagues, let me just make sure I get the numbers correct here.

>> Mayor Adler: 16, and 34, and 74, and 82.

>> Tovo: Okay. I've asked several times for us to have a conversation before taking up these new cases. We've now -- the time constraints in multiple meetings now have prevented us from doing that. I am not supportive of these cases as they currently are, for reasons that I hope we have an opportunity to discuss, which relates to the caps that are in place for the downtown density

[6:41:30 PM]

bonus program, that these are proposing to exceed. I believe we need to have a policy conversation that was deferred from 2014, about what benefit should be embedded within our density bonus program when projects are proposing to exceed those caps. Having said that, we have a really challenging meeting ahead of us today. So I'm going to propose we postpone item 16.

>> Mayor Adler: To 4-8?

>> Tovo: Yes. And pass 34 on second reading. And that we pass item 74 and 82 on first reading only. I am bringing forward an emergency ifc tomorrow to effect a code amendment that would not impact these projects probably, but would address this policy issue, which I look forward to having a conversation about, and I am adding on our next work session the -- sorry.

[6:42:32 PM]

Adding to our work session, our next work session agenda discussion item to talk about F.A.R. As it relates to Rainey street, density program program and downtown density program to make sure we have an opportunity for that conversation.

>> Mayor Adler: To make sure I understand it. You're moving 16 be postponed to 4-8. 34 pass on second reading. It will come back to us then on 4-8 for final action, together with 16, 74 and 82 passing on first reading only. Also coming back for final action on 4-8. You'll set it up so that we have the time to actually have at the work session.

>> Tovo: I've scheduled as a council discussion. It's not even in the agenda lineup.

>> Mayor Adler: You'll also bring an ifc for a change that probably doesn't pertain to these tracts but would you perspective, and that would be

[6:43:34 PM]

on the next agenda as well.

>> Tovo: My colleagues can reach out to me. And that will go out tomorrow.

>> Mayor Adler: Second to this councilmember -- councilmember Kelly seconds. Is there any discussion? Councilmember pool?

>> Pool: I want to understand why the Rainey street items would still be delayed and not put on an agenda if the code discussion is for -- mayor, you said for -- is it cases that would come to us after these four. So I think there may be a disconnect. I think councilmember tovo may want the changes to be applied to these cases. I ink, mayor, you were saying that you didn't think they would be. So I need to know where we're at

[6:44:34 PM]

with that. And I think the part --

>> Mayor Adler: You said that in your introduction.

>> Tovo: I'd prefer that -- let me say, if there's a way to fix the code and have it applied, then I'm all for it. I just don't know that that's a possibility.

>> If that's the case, why would we not be adjusting to move these forward to April 8th.

>> Mayor Adler: They are. They are.

>> Tovo: I'm postponing them to April 8th.

>> Okay. All I heard was 16 was postponed to the 8th, and you said they were all in the work session lineup, they weren't on the agenda lineup yet.

>> Tovo: I'm suggesting we pass them on second reading, and first reading respectively. They will come back to us on the 8th.

>> Okay.

>> Tovo: On the 6th we'll have that policy conversation and talk about the code amendment I'm bringing forward.

>> Okay. But they will definitely be on the agenda. Great. Thanks very much.

[6:45:36 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Casar.

>> Casar: I know these aren't exactly zoning cases, but if there's not a significant impact, I'm fine with pro Forma possibility zoning. Do we know if there's a specific impact?

>> Mayor Adler: I understand that the applicants are all accepting of this proposal. Is there someone that can confirm that?

>> Mayor, that is correct, I've spoken with the applicants and they are agreeable to councilmember tovo's motion.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Casar: Just checking. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: It's been moved and seconded. Those in favor please raise your right hand. Those opposed. The actions as described are unanimously adopted. That gets us just then to the last two items, the APD items. We have speakers that are lined up. But before we start, mayor pro

[6:46:38 PM]

tem.

>> This wasn't an anticipated outcome for these Rainey items. But they're obviously favorable for me. But I have remarks to share if this is the appropriate time on the Rainey item.

>> Mayor Adler: I would certainly recognize you to do it later if you're okay with that.

>> Harper-madison: I'll let us get to the speakers then.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you.

>> Mayor, with all due respect, I'm going to need to have the conversation that I wanted to have in the remarks that I was trying to move the conversation along for the evening by not having that conversation tonight.

>> Mayor Adler: We're going to -- I'll entertain it at the end of our vote on the APD matters. And you all can decide whether or not --

>> I wanted to tell [overlapping speakers].

>> I would prefer to have postponed those items. I was trying to move them forward.

[6:47:39 PM]

That was not my favorite disposition. But did so just to move us on this evening. So if we're going to circle back to them, then I may want to rescind the vote we just took, and actually have the conversation this evening. But our staff need a sign as to whether or not to stay.

>> Mayor Adler: Are these fairly abbreviated?

>> This is easily posted on Facebook or the message board. It's certainly not worth any undue stress. Kathie, I didn't know that was what you were attempting to accomplish. I can post my remarks elsewhere.

>> Tovo: Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: I just wanted to let the speakers know that I'm going to be eating my food with my video off because I wasn't able to get my dinner, but that I am listening with my handy microphone. But I just wanted you to know that I will be listening.

>> Mayor Adler: Sounds good. I apologize for any rudeness, if

[6:48:41 PM]

I keep my camera on, and still eat at the same time. It's not intended to be dismissive. Are we ready? Okay. Clerk, why don't you call some speakers, and I apologize for the wait for you all to get called. One minute each.

>> Mayor, the first speaker is a Spanish speaker, so we have the interpreter on the line.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Are you available?

>> I'm here.

>> Okay.

(Indiscernible). Rojas. Viola?

>> Hello?

>> Go ahead.

[6:49:46 PM]

>> Okay. Good evening. Can I please start the time? Sorry.

>> Mayor Adler: Time starts now.

>> It's two minutes?

>> Mayor Adler: Two minutes. Because you have the interpreter.

>> Okay, thank you.

>> Good evening, city councilmembers and mayor. My name is Viola Rojas. I'm a mother and organizer, communities of colored united for racial justice. I'm currently also serving as a rep on the city's reimagining public safety task force. I'm one of the two co-chairs of this task force and I'm here to formally lodge an objection to the proposal in blueprint to restart the APD cadet class in June. I've also talked directly in a meeting with you, city manager, we met Monday.

[6:50:47 PM]

Though this blueprint may very well be well-intentioned, it was pulled quickly, in about 48 hours according to you. I have serious concerns about the intentionality of such a huge move, in such a rushed process. I also have concerns about transparency and accountability in relation to the reimagining public safety task force. On January 20th, after task force discussion, we voted and approved the motion to formally lodge an objection to any effort by the city and APD to move forward with any new cadet classes. And so we have a level of demonstration of proof of a number of areas that I can send to you, because I don't want to take all the time. But it includes the rate of

(indiscernible) Of residents by APD affecting black cadets, and

[6:51:50 PM]

other issues.

>> Speaker, your time has expired.

>> Not according to my -- can I just finish?

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you.

>> The next speaker is Ariel ligette.

>> Hi. Yes, my name is Ariel ligette, a resident of district 3. I am a native austinite, an artist and musician. I'm calling to oppose item 37 as well. In 2020 the city of Austin embarked on an unprecedented opportunity with police imagining. This came with the expectation there would be a thorough reimagining of the training academy. The Kroll report has fundamentally changed at the academy. If there's anything this last year has taught us is the power of community, specifically the Austin community. Austin has been nationally recognized and praised for our

[6:52:50 PM]

approach and follow-through of reallocating funding to invest in the programming initiative. Updating the APD cadet

(indiscernible), and I ask for these changes to be made with attention in accountability. The amendments do acknowledge this, but I do ask council to vote no until the proper improvements have been made from the west point academy, they make us choose the harder right than the easier wrong. Thank you. I yield my time.

>> Julia Von Alexander.

>> Hello. My name is Julia Von Alexander, and I'm a resident of district 9. I want to remember those killed by APD in the last four years. Morgan Rankins, Landon noble,

[6:53:52 PM]

Jason roek, Thomas Simpson Alvarez, Hugo Alvarez, Leslie Yolanda Salazar, (indiscernible) Sanchez, jammon griffin, Mike Ramos, Alex Gonzales, and Jordan Walton. Police did not keep them safe. Please do not fund or restart a new APD cadet class. Don't betray our shared community project of creating real safety and reducing racist harm in Austin. Please keep your commitment to reimagining public safety. And don't pass this resolution. Thank you.

>> Emma chevalier.

>> My name is Emma chevalier. I am a resident of district 9.

[6:54:54 PM]

And I am strongly against item number 37. Tovo and the rest of council, you know, everyone who's been paying attention to how you vote this year, and I really hope that you vote against this, and do not pass to fund a new cadet class. And we will remember how you vote. I just want to echo the names that of those killed by APD, by the last speaker. No more police, defund the police, and ultimately abolish the police APD, a viole organization. Just last month, murdered another young black man, justice for Jordan. I yield my time.

>> (Indiscernible).

[6:55:56 PM]

>> Hello?

>> Yes, go ahead.

>> Okay. Thank you. I am a resident of district 10. My name is Maria. And I have been in the city of Austin for a little bit -- almost five years now, both as a student and now as a software engineer. So I've been watching the development of this situation, and kind of the (indiscernible) Over the years. I think that by trying to start a new APD cadet class, you're undermining the work of the matching public safety task force. They've been doing a lot of work and trying to put together the best recommendations for the city and I think it makes best sense to wait until that process is over and keep their recommendations in mind before making any decisions, especially because that group is focusing on an equity learns, and has more of the members of the

[6:57:00 PM]

affected group.

>> Michelle Edwards.

>> Hello. Can you hear me?

>> Yes. Go ahead.

>> My name is Michelle Edwards. And I'm a mom and I live in district 5. And I'm asking you to vote against item 37. The timeline of three months to completely transform abusive focused academy is completely unrealistic. Structural changes need to happen, not just adding new powerpoints. Have even any existing

(indiscernible) Been replaced? Some people want to rush ahead and bring in fresh new cadets hoping it will transform APD from the inside, but they would be at the bottom of the hierarchy. You need time to change the academy and you haven't even had time to hear the reimagining public safety task force's recommendation.

[6:58:01 PM]

This resolution is unfair to the potential cadets you would be bringing in to, quote, fix APD, and most importantly unfair to the people of color in the community who have had too many reports and oversight groups only to have you move ahead with a band-aid resolution like this one. It doesn't have any way of pulling the plug if needed structural changes don't occur. Thank you.

>> Monica Guzman?

>> Good evening. I'm Monica Guzman, policy director for (indiscernible). I'm a member of the reimagining public safety task force. We've been meeting for months reimagining a holistic public safety for the black and brown communities, plans for multiple listening sessions. In January, the deputy city manager said, quote, we have publicly said we won't move forward and recommend academy if we're not ready for one, unquote. APD is not ready. Yet last week city manager cronk sent (indiscernible) A

[6:59:01 PM]

blueprint. The task force still has much work to do, including forwarding recommendations to council, so how can there already be a blueprint. The city dropped the ball on a process to select the chief resilience officer and is now dropping the ball for reimagining public safety. Our trust in the process has been violated. We urge council to stand with the task force. With your constituents. And demand a transparent community process, starting with the not so transparent process of reimagining public

safety. We expect the deputy city manager to address issues here in Austin before moving on to her new position in Colorado. Thank you.

>> Annei lush.

>> My name is Annie daily-lush. I'm in district 5 for black lives. I'm asking you to vote no to 36 7 and a

[7:00:06 PM]

cadet class before they've had a chance to recommend to the entire city. It sends a message that you don't care. How many black and brown people have to die before you stand in sole solidarity. Give this process a chance. Thank you.

>> Laura Spraggins.

>> Hello. My name is Laura Spraggins. I'm a teach teacher. Thank you for making the issue of reimagining public safety a focus. I believe that the city should not fund a new APD cadet class against the recommendations of the reimagining public safety task force. It completely dismisses the hard work of the task force, betrays the commitment. Report after report shows that APD has issues with race

[7:01:09 PM]

policing. I live 100 yards away from a memorial. I walk by it every day. It's a sober reminder of the toll policing has on the black and brown body. It needs transformative change. APD is not ready to train new cadets and put them to work in an institution that doesn't harm people. No new cadets. I yield my time.

>> Andrea black.

>> Hi. My name is Andrea back. Black. I participated in an APD review panel and I'm part of reimagining public safety task force working group. I'm a member of undoing white supremacy Austin. I urge you to vote against the academy. It's evident that APD has a tremendous amount of work to do before it's ready to start training cadets again. Approving before the task force

[7:02:10 PM]

has a chance to recommend changes, it's a waste of funds for APD to start training cadets without a vision of what we're training them to do. The city's limited funds should be used for other priorities. Keep your commitment to reimagining public safety. Respect the process. No new cadet class.

>> Jen margulus.

>> Hi. My name is Jen margulus. I want to remember those killed by APD Morgan Rankin, Thomas Al [Albert speaking]

[7:03:17 PM]

Police did not keep them safe. I'm a member of two working groups, and under white supremacy Austin, we're counting on you to address the time and funds to reimagining public safety and making transformative change. Restarting the cadet class against the task force threatens the entire process. We have no urgent need for cadets. We need an end to racism violence and displacement and public and community care in Austin. APD is in no way ready to train new cadets. Don't put the cart before the horse. Keep your commitment to reimagining public safety even when it's hard. Respect the process. Vote no on 37. No new cadet class. Thank you.

>> Eliza Epstein.

>> Good evening, he will

[7:04:19 PM]

Eliza Epstein. I live in a land of so many people's who continue to protect today. The police reform and police abolition, these are grounded in two different world views. I don't want to live in a world with police or jails or where anyone is kicked out, excluded. I don't want a new academy, and I don't want a new police chief, but today's about saying no to the cadet academy. Honoring the work of the reimagining public safety task force and the community review panel as well as myriad other reports and people who have testified today who understand the depths of racism and bias within APD. The bias results in violence against black, brown, and indigenous people. You, council, committed to this and put together a deeply informed task force to do that work. You put people of color through more trauma to do this work. Now you must wait and listen. This work isn't easy. You can't be ready for a

[7:05:20 PM]

cadet academy because they have told you you are not ready. If you read the report, even they say you're not ready. Thank you for the amendment. They are a start, but please do not move forward.

>> Your time is expired.

>> Thanks.

>> Carmen yanes-polido.

>> Good evening. Hi again. You'll notice the winter storm and this item about the cadets as you know public safety is threatened by climate crisis and economic stress as well. You're going to need money for climate proofing the city, later tonight you'll see your deputies on video restating the commitment not to move forward with a cadet class for the community without the recommendations of their task force. Days before we all learned that this was coming into your agenda today. This is asymptomatic -- this is symptomatic problematic management. There was a police shooting during the last rps meeting. There was a hailstorm last night. There will be hate heat and

[7:06:22 PM]

hurricanes this summer and fall. You will face more power outages. The consequences of managements in action and the lack of transparency and taking shortcuts without us cost lives, billions of dollars and more problems in a city that's having trouble financing infrastructure needs. Reporters don't care about municipal politics in cities like Minneapolis, Austin, and bolder, but they know about George Floyd and the climate crisis in Texas. We can get louder and we've people --

>> Your time has expired. Molly Holtz.

>> Hi. My name is Molly Holtz, I'm a residents of district 3. Thank you for making the issue of reimagining public state -- safety focus. We made progress with reallocation of the funds and the public

[7:07:23 PM]

safety task force. Voting to fund a cadet class will go against the commitment city council made to our community to prioritize ensuring the safety of Austin's black and brown community members. Please allow the rps task force to finish their work and present their recommendations to council before pushing forwardment a. A vote sends a message that you do not value their work. Remember, true public safety means secure housing, enough food, and access to medical care, and quality education, not more place. -- Police. No new cadet class. Thank you.

>> Maria Reza.

>> Hello.

>> Yes. Go ahead.

>> Oh, okay. Hello. My name is Maria Reza. I am a resident of district 4. I'm calling

[7:08:24 PM]

to ask that you vote no on agenda number 37. A blueprint that asks for funding for a new APD cadet class is not what our city needs or community needs. As you all very well know, we're still living in the middle of a covid-19 pandemic, and some of us are still living with the consequences of just the snowstorm and just so much that's happened in our communities. We definitely deserve a break, and that includes no police. What we need to direct investment into our communities and that includes holistic recommendations that reimagine public safety task force has been working for months to do. I urge you all to please vote no on agenda item 37 in order for us to prioritize the safety of all austerites, not just those that benefits -- benefit from policing. Thank you.

[7:09:28 PM]

>> Sharon Blythe.

>> Yes. This is Sharon Blythe in district 6. Please consider voting for item 37 which restores the police cadet class. I've heard from policemen that large sectors of the city has very few police patrolman available to protect the public. My safe neighborhood, we have a crime currently where we feel unsafe. I have no expectation that my words will make an outcome difference here tonighting but I felt it was important to call today anyway. Thank you.

>> Suki McMahan.

>> Suki mcmay on,

[7:10:32 PM]

please unmute. Rachel Shannon.

>> Good evening. My name is Rachel Shannon and I'm a resident of district 1 against item 367. I would like to remember in the last four years APD has killed 12 community members of color. Police did not keep them safe. The reimagine public safety task force does not produce recommendations until April. This threatens the entire process. I'm a member of the 11rps working group and attended the station with Kroll associated where Rick brown shared this perspective, change has to come from the top first. Cadets can't change the culture of the department. The department has to change culture and then include cadets in that process, end quote. Change does not start at the bottom and it does happen overnight. The problem won't be quickly fixed by rearranging a few things. Stop investing our money in solutions designed to fail. There is no urgent need for

[7:11:33 PM]

new officers. This is a false sense of urgency. We don't need to grow a racist institution that has not learned how to stop killing black and brown people. We need to be you are urgent about stopping police violence. Keep your commitment to reimagining public safety. Respect the process.

>> Your time has expired.

>> Thank you.

>> Suki MC McMahon.

>> I'm suki McMahon. I'm with ajc and I oppose item 37. The time has come for the input and we can't allow the process to be short changed. In April, the ac cr will begin the initial review of the curriculum. According to the city manager's office it is adequate to review only one class in each area of instruction by June. How are we releasing assessments in mid-april which is a diversity, equity, and inclusion curriculum. They will

[7:12:34 PM]

only review a single course in that 11-course curriculum leaving most unseen. How many more curriculum are in the training? I'll give a nod to the amendments that are trying to bring transparency into it. If you want to use reimagine in relation to the changes at the academy, you must vote no today.

>> Alice Lang Cortez.

>> I'm from district 9. I ask you to vote no on item 37 today. On January 20th, 2021, a community member panel presented to the reimagine public safety task force on the findings from their review of the training videos from the cadet academy. Enough concern was generated at the meeting for the reimagining public safety task force to launch an okays

[7:13:37 PM]

objection for the city to move forward any cadet classes until five areas of shortfalling from the cadet classes were addressed which you have received and en zoo. To go -- seen. To go against it would be nothing short of exploitive and performative. That put in six months of work to report back. It was composed of community members and activists most of which were black witnessing and exposing themselves to traumatizing and disturbing police culture videos. You be respecting those outcomes out of a process that you asked for, like that's violent much that's violent. To steamroll over their voices without addressing those main concerns and continuing cadet classes is a disrespectful --

>> Your time has expired. Nelly

[7:14:37 PM]

Ramirez.

>> Hello.

>> Yes. Go ahead.

>> Okay. My name is Nelly Ramirez. I'm a resident of south Austin and a member of the public safety commission. I'm speaking to 117 but also more generally to the hiring of a new police chief. I'm disappointed that the short notice and lack of input opportunities around announcing this before the departure doesn't feel like fair play. We're supposed to be reimagining public safety in the city and that should include the processes that we use to make all of our hires. We know things do follow the time lines that we imagine at the front end so Chacon could be our interim chief for some time. I employ you to create a more transparent process that accommodates more community participation. As for today's vote on 117, I ask that you vote against it. The pivotal safety decisions we have ahead of us warrant a more open evaluation of a candidate. Thank

[7:15:41 PM]

you.

>> Bethany Carson.

>> Hi. This is Bethany Carson from district 4. I'll begin with remembering those people of color killed by APD in the last four years. Police did not keep them safe. To honor their lives, first stop funding what caused their deaths. The conversation of reimagining public safety is necessarily grounded in the reality. The police were never intended to keep communities of color safe. In a month, council will hear concrete proposals for the task force with ways create holistic safety for all austinites. Health, housing, economic resources that don't come with a side of murder. I ask you to wait and fund these things. A vote for a

[7:16:42 PM]

cadet class today is a vote to rescue the image of policing, not to reimagine public safety. Thank you.

>> Sara wambold.

>> Hi. My name is Sara wambold. I oppose restarting the cadet class. This urgency does not outweigh the overwhelming desire for a change in the way our city does public safety. The city manager's time line does not leave adequate time for a a robust review of courses. Because they dug in the heels and has sustained inaction, a community review of pilot courses is vital. Rushing the time line and letting them

move forward with a cadet class without showing any significant tangible progress other than removing inappropriate video material, the

[7:17:43 PM]

amendments are an important afterthought. Because they were not part of the original plan is deeply concerning. Council should vote against reopening the academy in to build community confidence that the plan has been well thought out and implemented. Thanks.

>> Noel Davis.

>> Hello. My name is Nol he canner L caves. I ask you vote against item 37. Keep your record and support the reimagine public safety task force process. Austin leadership of the APD leadership has really fostered a culture of racism and violence as other speakers from shared. Do not continue to enable this abuse of our community. APD leadership is practicing with Dr. Brene brown what they have identified as armored leadership. She completed a 7 year study

[7:18:44 PM]

on what is brave leadership. They are refusing to be vulnerable. Daring leadership is a collection of four skill sets that are teach able, observable, and measurable. Dr. Brown has developed the dare to lead training program. I got to participate in one recently with a police chief from north Texas, and he expressed how incredibly valuable that training was. So please, direct APD towards becoming daring leaders before you allow them to guide new cadets. Please be drive. Stay committed to the true reimaging process and stop the abuse. Thank you.

>> Cole kunav.

>> Good evening, mayor and council. My name is Cole kunav. I'm her in support of item 37. APD training staff has taken great strides to improve the academy in over the past year and a half and the department is ready to restart. Academy in staff has completed teaching excellence and racial equity workshops,

[7:19:45 PM]

new positions such as the organizational development training manager and training specialist have been created to increase community involvement in civilian oversight, content experts have been recruited to teach courses that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion. These are a few of the improvements they have made to the academy. On top of these improvements, APD staff has agreed to

implement every one of the recommendations. The new transformational cadet academy about train cadets who'll change the culture for the better. Support item 37 and the blueprint to build upon the improvement made in the cadet academy. Thank you.

>> Matt fox.

>> Hi. My name is Matt fox. I'm a resident of district 5. I'm a volunteer with Austin justice coalition in district five for black lives. I oppose restarting the class. To reimagine means to rethink the academy in and ensure that the efforts trained there are not just a slightly

[7:20:46 PM]

improved version of our current status quo. The Kroll report indicates that little has changed in the academy thus far. The report states, quote, it is unclear how much work is being done at present to bring in outside content experts and other community voices, enter quote. This is alarming since the report found APD reluctant to incorporate civilian input and was distrustful of not police personnel including academic experts. If APD won't listen to community or to experts, we cannot trust them to make the changes without robust community oversight and that is impossible given this time line. Councilman do acknowledge this. We urge you to vote no and rushing an incredibly important process.

[7:21:49 PM]

>> Tammy

[indiscernible].

>> Hi. Hi name is Tammy, resident of d7 calling to oppose 37. I'm been following the public safety task force since last year, the same task force that the city and cronk's office have committed to are spontaneous processing -- supporting. Just over a month ago, I witnessed the task force express their overwhelming disapproval of the new APD cadet class which means there should not be a new APD cadet class. APD serves the community we must not forget those who are most impacted by the harm they commit. This year already we've lost one of our own at the hands of APD. APD has not changed the way they operate. They are willing to change the way they operate. We the community are the ones working to change the system. Please listen to the changes we want. Please listen to the changes the task force is working to present. I trust the work they are doing. Thank you.

[7:22:53 PM]

>> Donna Hoffman.

>> Hi. This is Donna Hoffman. I'm calling from the American cultural heritage district on Gregory street in what was Gregory town. Police violence is a direct historical result of the unresolved history of slavery. We have to continue in the process of growing beyond that way of treating huge categories of people of color. I support the communities of color united and the reimagine public safety task force and I'm asking you to please respect the democratic process and invest in support, address the causes of poverty in homelessness, help people recover from the recent storm, and do not start up the new police academy. Continue with that good process that we began last year. Thank you.

[7:23:58 PM]

>> Emily sawyer.

>> Hello. My name is Emily sawyer. I'm a white resident of district 4 and a volunteer with Austin justice commission. The task of fully and truly reimagining the academy is a substantial one and one that has not even begun in Ernest nor reached a point where we can start a class. The time line to reopen the substantial work necessary does not seem to be on the horizon. The city created the reimagine public safety task force to lead community conversations about enhancing the safety of our community. So far, it's one recommendation has been not to reconvene classes this year. Voting to reopen now undermines the work of the task force and discounts the labor of all community members involved. Voting against reopening the cadet class would affirm that the creation of the task force was more than lip service to creating change. The proposed amendments are a step in the right direction but I ask you

[7:24:58 PM]

to make sure the reopening of the academy is done correctly and meets the needs of this community. Please vote no to starting a new cadet class. Thank you.

>> Sam kirsch.

>> Thank you, mayor and councilman -- council members. Speaking against item 37. On may 31st, I was shot in the head after running away after peacefully protesting on i30. I've had three surgeries in total most recently in October when my retina detached. I must make the decision about whether to have surgery to remove my eye entirely because I have double and distorted vision. The council must not allow them to restart classes. The city has already established the reimagine public safety task force so why would the council try to

[7:26:00 PM]

restart classes without even hearing the task force's recommendations. A community report of the police academy found some of the training material is even found to have been taken from Hollywood movies such as the last samurai. This is ridiculous. Vote no on item 37. Thank you.

>> Lauren odel.

>> Hi. My name is Lauren ortel. I'm in district one and I volunteer with hac. I oppose restarting the cadet class. Arguably, the most important change at the academy is being met are reluctance. APD leadership that's expressed the belief that a pair military structure is an essential component of police culture. Released in may 2020, the report pinpoints the para military structure as an obstacle to cadets working in a manner consistent with the community oriented police services model.

[7:27:01 PM]

APD has doubled down on its belief that this structure and despite having a year to explore alternatives continues to use aspects of the pair para military eye structure. The Kroll report can only lead to the conclusion that the academy is not ready to open due to APD's self -- inflicted delay. The amendments are a step in the right direction but an overhaul of the academy in cannot be accomplished on this time line. Thank you.

>> Calvin klites.

>> Hi. My name is Calvin klit Tes. I'm calling to oppose item 37.

[Poor audio].

>> I want to address the

[7:28:06 PM]

cops laughing at us --

>> Mayor, I terminated his call, and we are calling him back since we couldn't make out what he was saying.

>> Mayor Adler: Great. Thank you.

>> Next is sue Gabriel.

>> I'm sue Gabriel of district 3. Another cadet class would be a waste of time and a waste of taxpayer money. This is not on the the work list of the reimagining public safety task force and would not transform nor transfer public safety to our communities. As I've said before, no amount of police training can undo embedded police attitudes. 9 working groups are addressing and developing creative

and equitable solutions to community needs. It's pastime for the city government to get on board. Please vote against item 37. This is another

[7:29:07 PM]

failure of the city manager and the city council. We will not go backward.

>> Calvin Klites.

>> Hi. I'm sorry about that. I'm from district 10. I'm calling to oppose item 37. It was not more than just a year ago that I was in the streets witnessing police brutality myself against our community, and that's why we came to you at that time to ask you to reimagine public safety. This is not that. All you have done so far is defund the police and removed two of the cadet classes and now you want to replace one again without even hearing from the task force you set up to change the systemic problems in APD. I don't think it will make it better if you tell people racism is wrong and hand them a gun in the same culture that killed 12 people of color in the past four

[7:30:07 PM]

years. We are not looking for more police. Council members, I appreciate your efforts to amend this, but there is no amending what is wrong. You know this is against what this -- what your own constituents have asked for. Please seriously reimagine public safety and adjust these funds to go to other places other than the police academy. We don't want cops at all. We can take care of ourselves and do better and not involve a violent.

>> Nathan Graves.

>> Hi. My name is Nathan Graves. I'm a member of Austin Democratic Socialists of America. As socialists, we understand that the police are there primarily to protect property and not to protect human life. This is why you see police removing homeless people from porches of businesses and not providing them with services that would keep

[7:31:08 PM]

them safe during the freeze. That said, this -- the Austin -- less than a year ago committed to reimagine public safety over the objections of Brian Manly and now Brian Manly and APD are pinkie promising they've turned over a new leaf and are ready to take cadets now. This is ridiculous. This should not be up for consideration. Please vote no on this item. Thank you.

>> David Johnson.

>> Hello. My name is David Johnson. I'm a resident of district 5. I'm a member of the team aggressor's leadership and I'm a sitting member of the public safety task force. You are ridiculous up on on the dais. I'm tired of playing. You invited us to participate in a process that you said the city council and the mayor, you said you wanted to center the voices of the community most directly impacted.

[7:32:09 PM]

What have you done? You have disregarded in a disrespect of fashion the one agreed upon request. I am not surprised that greater Austin crime commission and all of their former cops are on board with this. But end of the day, this is simple. This is not about amendments. I need you all to put on your big boy and girl underwear and stand with integrity. All of you read white fragility and oppression. Read something so you're not sitting up there thinking this is okay to tell the city we wasted your time. This was all a dog and pony show. This was a circus to distract you. If you are other not worried about healing and helping, then let this circus be a circus and if you're going to do these rodeos where you disregard the 35 to one rare owe --

>> Ratio.

>> Your time has

[7:33:11 PM]

expired. Rodney signs.

>> Good afternoon. I'm calling to -- my in addition name is Rodney. I'm calling against 37. As a member of the reimagine task force, I just recall the name being reimagine public safety, not reimagining the police cadet academy. It's unfair to new cadets to be thrown into this situation where they're tasked with I cans ifing this corrupt system which is obviously not do right by the citizens of Austin. They're supposed to change it from within much that's ridiculous. It's unfair to us work group members doing work for months, meeting after meeting, day after day over everything that we've done will now apparently be ignored. As a participant of a recent interview program last weekend, all of the families were saying what they needed in their neighborhood and for their families was more assistance and speed bumps, not more

[7:34:11 PM]

police. I waive the rest of my time. Don't against this.

>> Kerry Roberts.

>> This is Kerry Roberts. A resident of district 8 and greater Austin crime commission. I want to thank the city manager for bringing this item and recognizing the work that's been done by the police department and city staff and the community to get us to this point. Look, I'm a member of the task force. The task force is working on a lot of important topics, but not police training. I mean, there's no task force work group and no discussions beyond a pre-kroll assessment vote. I suggest that the criteria has been addressed there. I doubt any training recommendations are coming to the council on April 20th because no one is working on it. Other callers, I respect their right to disagree about restarting classes but not misleading about

[7:35:11 PM]

how much work has been done. After 7 outside reviews in more than a year since the last cadet class started, Austin is ready to start. The curriculum has been overhauled and will be improved by the work required by the blueprint. Work has been done, but as the mayor pro tem pointed out, we cannot forget how and why we got here and I promise you we will not. Thank you for supporting item 37 in public safety. I think you know how the community really feels.

>> Jessica Johnson.

>> My name is Jessica Johnson. I'm an attorney at Texas defense project and a member of the reimagine task force opposing item 37. This short time line to prevent meaningful change. The report indicates that the focus in revising the curriculum has been, I quote, uninsuring that course content is

[7:36:12 PM]

compliant with the state mandated requirements. And not on vital recommendations from previous reports. Further, one of the few changes for the proposed title is shortening it from 30 weeks to 22 weeks putting officers with less training on the streets of Austin. Any time crunch has been created to dig in its heels, instead of fully committing to making the kind of changes that would put the academy in a place to reopen. Opening the door to start the academy conveys the message that community input will continue to be discarded based on the political will of city council and it is just disrespectful of the labor of the members of the task force. Thank you.

>> Alisa torres.

>> Yes. Hi. My name is Alicia torres. I'm a member of Austin and

[7:37:13 PM]

reimagine public safety task force. Moving forward with a cadet class before June comes an entire month before the public task force has an opportunity to present a recommendation. Recommendations that are centered on holistic safety and not just policing centered. To bring up the hard work that's being done creating this reimagine public task force was never attached to producing a better version of a cadet class which is not possible. There is nothing that can be reformed that is -- I urge everybody to vote no on the proposed resolution to item 37 because as many other folks have brought up already, Austin is not ready. We are in the epicenter of this work, and we are proud as a city and you yourselves standing up there say we are doing the hard work, actually put that in

[7:38:20 PM]

action.

>> Hello.

>> Rachel manning.

>> Hi. My name is Rachel manning. I am a resident of district 1, and I am calling to oppose the item 37. I would like to just read two of the three items bullet points on sense of urgency out of the white supremacy. The first is continued sense of urgencies that make it difficult to make time and encourage democratic or thoughtful decision making to think long-term and consider consequences and the second is frequently results in sacrificing potential allies for quick or results. For example, sacrificing interests for community of color to one victory for white people to be a default or norm community. What's going on today is we are moving to restart the APD academy while

[7:39:23 PM]

co-opting the language which is a betrayal of the work that you asked them to do. Imagination takes time. It takes creativity and support and space. We can wait. We can be patient, and we can give the committees the time to do their work. Don't start the APD cadet class before the task force has even completed the recommendations. Thank you.

>> Beth Muffett.

>> Hi. My name is Beth Muffett. I'm in Paige Ellis' district. Thank you for majoring this a focus. Please vote no on 37. Don't fund a new APD class against the recommendations of the rps task force. Now having to do it again, this is ridiculous. The city has engaged the time intensive labor of

[7:40:25 PM]

a host of community members. They have put in long hours crafting a response instead of representations at the request of the city and now this labor is being dismissed. The city is moving forward despite the own promises proving a cadet class before they have a chance to put forward their recommendations betrays our community's process of community safety. I want to say no new cadets. Austin isn't ready. This is a betrayal to the process the city committed to. Keep your commitments to reimagining public safety. Respect the process. I yield my time.

>> Corby Jastro.

>> Good evening, I'm president of the Greater Austin Crime Commission. Austin is ready to start the police training academy. APD training

[7:41:26 PM]

staff is committed to implementing the necessary improvements outlined in the city manager's blueprint. Failing to restart cadet classes will worsen the staffing strain already faced by APD. Resignations and retirements are outpacing projections. In addition to the 150 police positions cut last year, the department will have more than 100 vacancies by the end of March. That's less officers than the city had a decade ago. Officers are overworked and the department is stretched thin. We need more officers to address rising crime and slower response times. Please support item 37 and restart police cadet classes. Thank you.

>> That concludes all the speakers.

>> Mayor Adler: Great. Thank you very much. That gets us to the point right now to

[7:42:26 PM]

consider this item 37. We need a motion. Alter, would you like to make a motion.

>> Alter: I would like to move passage of the base item for 37 plus my amendments.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. The base motion --

>> Alter: I can do it separately if you prefer.

>> Mayor Adler: We'll do this one together. The base motion with the amendments as posted by councilmember Alter. There is a second to this motion? There's a second. Councilmember Alter, you want to address it first.

>> Alter: Sure. Thank you. I would -- I'll address my amendments, but then I would like to see if Ms. Musket could speak to us about the blueprint and the next steps on the Kroll report.

>> We'll move her over.

[7:43:28 PM]

>> Alter: Thank you. So we have been going through a long process here, and there are some serious parts of what folks have said tonight that resonate with me, and we might have done this better in two weeks, but here we are. I believe through the conversations and what I've heard that there's a serious commitment of moving forward in a way that we get a pilot 144th academy that meets the best possible way forward for us and sets us on the course to continue the process into the 1 45th cadet class and beyond. I'm proposing these amendments because I believe that council and the public need additional touch points and transparency on the

[7:44:29 PM]

recommendations implementation and the process -- progress of these reforms. I have language that creates guardrails around the blueprint and makes clear the stipulations for bringing forward a budget amendment and for starting the 1 45th cadet class. I want to thank councilmember Casar for the amendments on the message board and I look forward to the conversation tonight. My first 1st amendment is to add a where as clause that is directly pretty much from the Kroll report and says whereas the Kroll report recommends that absent exceptional circumstances long-term measures be implemented prior to the start of the 1 45th cadet class and then I add in the be it resolved several touch points and transparency items. First is updates on the progress of the academy, reforms shall be presented to council in April 2021 and may 2021.

[7:45:29 PM]

This recognizes that there is embedded in this a bit of a leap of faith, but that leap of faith requires the city manager and his staff to come back and for the Kroll report to come back so that we can see that these things are moving forward. It lays out that we could have an an an an interim report at the midpoint of the academy and then it takes the whereas clause and makes that into direction so that absent exceptional circumstances, we will implement the Kroll report long-term measures before the commencement of the 1 45th class and we will have a status report on that before the commencement of the 1 45th cadet class. Then lay out following the completion of the 144th cadet class some things that at a minimum we want the city manager to do in terms of

[7:46:31 PM]

reporting and then data collection, et cetera. Then finally, it says that we cannot have a budget amendment related to the pilot 144th cadet academy until after the final Kroll report is presented and the scheduled April 20th city community reimagining public safety task force recommendations are presented to council. So those are the amend amendments. If I can ask Mrs. Musket if -- unless it's the city manager who would like to do it -- to speak to the blueprint broadly and what are the next steps with respect to the control -- Kroll report.

>> I'll start and pass it over to our director of oversight. Again, a lot of work went into not only the recommendations that are coming forward to you today, but the commitment that we have for the path forward to

[7:47:32 PM]

make sure that we have a reimagined academy knowing that there will continue to be improvements that we will make along the way. We agree that there will need to be additional checkpoints and so supporting many of the things that you outlined here in your amendment. But with that, I'll turn it over to the director.

>> Good even, mayor, council, director of the office of police oversight and resolution 66. Thank you for your question. I'll start with Kroll first. They do still have additional areas for review. Part of what they're reviewing was feedback they received from the March 2nd work session. They are going to be looking into some potential impacts with women cadets and cadets of color. They are assessing more of the curriculum, specifically

[7:48:32 PM]

around the diversity, equity, and inclusion courses, community engagement program, and also looking at their deescalation training, mental health training, and particularly this has come up, the field training officer training. Why that is important and we've heard this repeatedly from community. Once they graduate and they are in the field, does it potentially negate what they learned in the academy? So that's why they are looking at the field training officer program because cadets have to graduate and spend a certain amount of time with the field training officer and to ensure there is continuation of the same training and same expectation when they are out in the field. As it relates to the blueprint, I will talk about it generally speaking, but I do think that this is obviously something that APD has to own and can speak more specifically to. But essentially, the

[7:49:34 PM]

goal here is opening up the door to the academy to include community involvement. We know it has been a closed environment, and now we are literally opening up the door. The community involvement includes more engagement, specific direct engagement of community with cadets before they start the academy, during the academy, and after the academy. We're talking about more cofacilitation so that cadets are not only learning from the instructors that were in the academy, but they are also learning from community members, academics, and others outside of the law enforcement field so they have a broader perspective in terms of what they are learning in the academy. We're also adding community members, not only academics, but our community members with lived experience on the academic committee and they are also working to formalize the video review process, which will be key, because obviously we know that that panel brought a

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perspective that wasn't necessarily there in the police department to provide just a different look in terms of the outcomes that happen with the videos that were being shown. Particularly as it related to persons of color. Adult learning, I think, is also a key change. This is the area that is bringing significant expertise in. It's also about the instruction. It's not only what cadets are learning but how they are learning it. It's not about sitting in class for 8 hours and learning about criminal procedure. It's about facilitating an environment where there is discourse, practical approaches in terms of how they are teaching it that allow cadets to process and understand the information. So I think focusing on the way in which cadets are learning is a really important. Then we talk about the transformative change. Obviously this is -- I know this feels warm and fuzzy or not as

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particularly genuine to some of our community members, but we do have to be transformative in the change and really looking at how we go from that warrior mentality and the guardian mentality and looking at how we incorporate that community togetherness in the academy as opposed to the us versus them mentality that we have seen and that was recognized from the community video panel report. So at a high level, those are really the kind of high level priorities of the academy. I'll defer to the department to talk about the specifics, but I'll leave you with this councilmember. To a certain extent, we are working in a conceptual way of how we are going to go about doing this academy. To a certain extent, I think we're going to have to see it in action to see whether or not the recommendations are achieving the outcomes. I think we are going to get to a point where we're going to have to

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iterate it. Some things might work. Some things might not. We have to be in a position to see what is leading to the change that fundamentally we all want to see. We may not agree on the direction, but we know we want to see the change. I think we have to see it in practice so that we can ensure that we get there.

>> I know other folks will have questions. I just want to add one last thought here is that if we vote to move forward tonight, I want to be really clear. We have another vote, which is on the budget. Any vote we take tonight is in anticipation that the steps in the blueprint are followed and that the spirit with which we are all approaching this where we want to create an academy that trains guardians and not warriors and that is really setting us P up up to address the racism

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that has been identified and to help everyone in our community feel safe. So that is a real vote on the budget that is, you know, did he end 'king on how this is -- he did pending on how this is structured. In my view this is a real vote and that is critical that we have significant work accomplished before then and confidence that we're able to implement the short-term elements of the Kroll report and commitment to the long-term by the end of the -- they would be implemented for the 1 145th. Thank you.

>> We can't hear you, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Other comments on the motion which includes, again, the alter amendments?

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Councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I have a question. It has to do actually with some of the work steps. So could you speak to the -- I'm wanting to understand more specifically the scope of the acr and the scope of the community video review panel. What I mean by scope, I mean to what extent do their recommendations have weight? In other words, in reading the blueprint, I'm seeing words like input. So my question is, to what he can tent does the a -- extent does the acr and the community video review panel have the scope, I should say, to influence what actually is done with the curriculum and what is

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actually done with the videos. I'm not certain who should answer that question.

>> I'm going to defer.

>> If one of these panels says no to something, does that carry weight?

>> Mayor -- I'm sorry to interrupt you. I'm being told that a bunch of callers were cut off or hung up on, and I didn't want us to get too far into this line of discussion if ultimately what we need to do is offer those speakers an opportunity to speak. So mayor, he wanted to get that on your radar.

>> Mayor Adler: Are these speakers that were speaking and then were cut off after they had spoken for a minute? Or were these people that didn't get a chance to speak and weren't recognized.

>> The latter.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Clerk, is there a way for people that were signed up to speak that may have been dropped

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get to you? Do we have staff with us still?

>> Mayor, the speaker -- sorry. I had to run back to the desk.

>> Mayor Adler: I'm sorry.

>> The -- we already closed out the speaker registration system. So there isn't a way for us to call them in.

>> Mayor Adler: But the registered speakers that called in, did they all get a chance to speak?

>> Yes. All of the speakers that called in were able to speak.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. And those were the ones that had registered? Thank you.

>> Yes. Correct.

>> Mayor Adler: I'm not sure what else to do.

>> I think in the past what we've done is have them send their remarks to the clerk who distributes them to all of us and there's something that feels like they should have recognized because they registered and now we

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can't -- would encourage them to send their remarks to the clerk.

>> Mayor Adler: Good idea.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Go ahead. Be recognized.

>> I had asked a question. They were about to respond to it.

>> I'm from the Austin police department. So that's a good question. So one of the first things that I'm doing next week is meeting with the video curriculum -- the video review panel and we're discussing who would like to continue from sort of some notes from Farrah. Some would like to continue and some would like to recommend other community members who would like to be involved. We're going to solidify who is going to continue on in that process. To be more direct to your question, within video review, none of the videos that obviously -- we've stopped using videos. Right? And any videos that we used for future academy classes has to be reviewed by the video

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review panel. I just want to be really careful on that. We are not using videos, and videos that we are going to use will be reviewed.

>> Excuse me. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to interrupt. Does review mean approval?

>> Yes. Approval. So we will be having discussion because that's, I think, part of the engagement process in this is that they have to be given context as to why the video is being we're also collecting quantitative data with graphics, in a content analysis way of saying, okay, overall picture of all the videos that we're showing, are we just disproportionately showing individuals, right, of certain groups. We're going to start collecting that from Austin police department, and ensuring that we're representative in our sample. So that's for video review and how we see this moving forward. In terms of curriculum review,

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this is going to be a new process. So we'll be very transparent about the process. The difference, I think, really is in curriculum review is that we do have (indiscernible), right? So depending on what the recommendation is, or what type of dialogue or feedback we get, we may not be able to incorporate that, if it includes taking out certain information or certain content. So I don't want to say, yes, absolutely, if there was a vote down that we would say, no, we're not going to continue our curriculum that way, however, we plan to be transparent in the process. So if there is some sort of, you know, community voice that is really worried about our content or how we're delivering something, that we'll try and address it within the panel, or within the committee itself. But if there is some sort of discord, we will kind of move it forward to see in a transparent process what that looks like.

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So that's sort of my answer for that is I think videos are a little bit more easy for me to say, hey, if this is not something that is approved, that we won't be showing, within curriculum, I think it's a little bit more challenging given that some curriculum we may be teaching based on tcal.

>> Kitchen: Thank you. I appreciate that response. With the curriculum, I was thinking more of additional items, or items that we can have discretion with, given that the state requirements are a base.

>> Sure, yeah, absolutely. And I think in that sense, one of the challenges is we've obviously had time constraints, right? However, we have added in 30 hours of community engagement, to which we have more flexibility to think about, what are we doing in terms of community voices. One of the things that I think

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is important, though, is that we also have to think about evidence-based practices. So what training works is something that is part of our review as well. Not just saying, what feels good, or what we think about, but also what actually will impact our community. Right? And so there is better evidence out there now than there was maybe a couple years ago. But we're staying current on, you know, the de-escalation training, and the evaluations that are coming out of that, that support de-escalation training and ensuring we're also implementing training that works as well as training that meets community needs and allows our officers or recruits at the starting edge to really understand what is the Austin community, what are the needs of the community, but also getting the skills to engage the community and to do policing well.

>> Kitchen: So my last question is, what I'm understanding with regard to curriculum, we've

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called out (indiscernible) Which is an evidence-based practice, but the hearing you say also that evidence-based practices related to de-escalation is an expectation for the curriculum to be included.

>> Yes. Absolutely. So we do have de-escalation training. But just always making sure, as I'm sure you know, there are different sort of variations on the delivery, right? So some of the training that we do do for de-escalation, making sure it's up to date. And all of the types of things, because there are various types of evaluations, some have been more -- you know, more scientific in terms of randomized control trial, while others have less supportive evidence. So we're just reevaluating our training to make sure that we're using the best type of de-escalation, for the most current types of de-escalation training. So, yeah, absolutely. But you're right, with trauma

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informed, that's something that is sort of a, I would say area that we need to improve on and make sure it's part of various components in our training, and that recently in Connecticut, in terms of background, I worked on a grant and in that particular grant they were doing trauma informed training but it wasn't part of policy. So we're also really aware in Austin that we want could keep our policies relevant to training, so it stays across the process, so that you don't just start at the academy, but you also have it in your policy to make sure that officers can be accountable and they know what's going on and it's not forgotten along the way.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Colleague? Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Thank you.

[8:04:58 PM]

Thank you for bringing the amendments for us all to consider. I definitely think this is a collaborative effort. I guess to everyone, it's important to make this cadet class a success. I was hoping assistant chief gay could give us insight on his ideas regarding these amendments and how they might play into the new academy?

>> Thank you, councilmember, chief of staff, Troy gay with the Austin police department. I do think there are a lot of things in the amendments that councilmember alter put in that would be -- would highlight and allow us some more flexibility in regards to sort of leaning into the evaluation, giving us opportunities to evaluate our academy as we continue to do progress. I do concur that we do need to

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focus on our short and long-term goals, to make sure that we are -- making sure that those are actually being done in the academy, and that we have successfully completed those. Like I said, I really don't see a whole lot of change that we really need in the amendment. There are some things that, in regards to the monitor of the class, I do think that we are looking at Kroll of doing the monitoring of the particular class, so we would probably need to discuss that late bit further. Thank you.

>> Kelly: Thank you. And maybe just as a follow-up, I know a lot of the callers had concerns over the things that have changed so far, versus things that hadn't yet, and some progress that's been made. Could you maybe highlight two or three things you have already started implementing with the department that were changes brought upon because of the report?

>> Absolutely. I mean, Farrah did a wonderful

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job of highlighting a lot of the work that we've done. But I really think that you are going to see a transformational academy when we start up. I believe that we have learned from the community video review panel. If I had to highlight one piece that is really going to make the change, is that we brought in people that really provided our department a different view, a different lens, and provided us a different understanding, and I think that is the community working with us to make our academy better. I think that is going to sort of make this academy an academy that is going to be looked at by other departments throughout the country as a model. So Farrah, as I said, did a great job in the other areas, but I just want to highlight the

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community collaboration piece. Thank you.

>> Kelly: Thank you very much.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Thank you. Further comments? Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: Was there somebody else that wanted to say something first?

>> Mayor Adler: Mayor pro tem?

>> Harper-madison: I don't necessarily need to go first. I was just asking --

>> Alter: I just was -- nobody was raising their hand so I have a question for Farrah. But I've already spoken a lot, so if somebody wanted to go first, I was just going to --

>> Harper-madison: I don't have a question. I have comments. I welcome your questions. It might help with my commentary.

>> Alter: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: Go ahead and do that. I think other people might be bringing your amendments and the like.

>> Alter: Okay, thank you. I was hoping that you could speak a little bit to the role of the independent evaluator, and also how soon they will be onboard, and is there a commitment that they will be

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onboard before the academy starts?

>> Yes. So thank you, councilmember. So the independent evaluators' recommendation contained in the preliminary analysis, so I will be writing the scope of work for that in the hopes of including that in Cole's current contract. And in my preliminary research, I've been modeling after consent decree monitors, and essentially what that is, is they're going to be obviously looking at the implementation of the Kroll recommendations, not only the short-term but also the long-term, that we'll be participating and observing courses, to ensure that the adult learning techniques are being utilized. They will be interviewing cadets, they'll be meeting with pd faculty and also the civilian staff throughout the pendency of the pilot class. They will be doing the -- what I envision, I haven't written it yet, but what I envision is

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they'll be doing periodic updates, and those updates, since this matter is so important, that we'll go directly to the city manager to make sure that the changes that are being recommended are actually being implemented. I do believe that this will be in place before the next pilot class. I think it's an important key to ensure that it is in place before a class can commence.

>> Alter: Thank you. The evaluator and all these check points, these abilities to adapt really point to that -- what we're trying to create here, a prototype for the academy, that the whole rest of the country, the whole state can look at. Some of this we have to learn by doing. Which is important. But we also have to make sure that we have the eyes on it so that we keep the momentum, and, you know, again, I want to underscore that taking this leap

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of faith to go forward with the steps toward the academy is assuming that the commitments that have been made, that need to happen before the class can happen, actually happen. And I'm sure every one of us on council will be watching. And as you can hear from the community, they will be watching. And so we do need to plan ahead in order for the start of the academy. But we have to build in these steps that I have put in my amendments, for instance, that allow us to have the transparency and see that what we're promising is actually being implemented. That doesn't mean we won't make a mistake, and that we won't have to learn and that we won't have to pivot and try something else. But we're trying something really big here. If this was easy, it wouldn't have taken us this long to get started again. And my hope is that our new

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leadership will be supportive of this process, and really help us make the change that we're pushing to make. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Casar, do you have any amendments?

>> Casar: Yeah, mayor, I'd like to move the amendments that I laid on the message board.

>> Mayor Adl: Councilmember Casar moves amendments. Is there a second to councilmember Casar's amendment? Councilmember kitchen seconds that. Councilmember Casar, do you want to address that?

>> Casar: I think the amendments square with a lot of what councilmember alter laid out. It's about making sure that if the academy is going to start in that shorter time frame, that everything in the blueprint, we make sure everything in the blueprint is really occurring, put belts and suspenders on that and try to build community trust in that process.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Moved and seconded. Discussion? I have a question for staff

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about the amendments, if I could. And deputy city manager, I don't know whether to direct them to you or somebody else. We had these on the board so we could go over them. We had a chance to discuss them, and there were two elements of this, as I understand it, that there were some reservations about. One was having people who are actually observing the classes while they were going on, because of the impact that might have on the dynamic of the adult situation. And the second one was the 14 days periods that triggered -- was associated with the budget amendment. For fear that wasn't enough time to be able to give notice to the cadets and their families to be able to gear up. Do the Casar amendments work if we were to specify with the

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second book, that you didn't talk about numbers at all, councilmember Casar, but if we were to say that there's going to be a one community member that's able to observe? And if we change from 14 days to 30 days in the fourth component of this -- or third component, rather, does that meet the concerns that were raised?

>> Thank you, mayor and councilmembers. I'll say that a couple things. One is, I believe that raising the date to 30 days versus 14 days does in fact alleviate it. Our concern was mostly for cadets and thinking that they would have to have some certainty rights. They need to change their lives in a certain way to make sure they're ready for the class. And we believe that 30 days is reasonable. It also, I think, comports with

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the timeline that we have set out for ourselves in the blueprint, and the commitment that we need to show that we have followed the steps in the blueprint, and would be coming to you, end of April or May, and show that progress as that moves forward. So we believe the 30-day support, or perhaps ask A.C. Troy Gay to respond as well. But in terms of our concern on having additional folks, including the independent evaluator be in the room, I think the one observer would be great. It would not be a distraction. Not knowing how many people, or how that would work, in the plural, was a bit concerning in terms of whether or not that really fits into a broader model of adult learning. So it's not so much not to have folks in the room as much as not to be a distraction as people are in the classroom as we move

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forward. So I don't know if, Troy, you have additional insight into that. But I do think that a singular observer in addition with Kroll would be fine.

>> I do know that -- thank you. The reference to Kroll, when this question was asked to them recently, I think a few weeks ago, with the adult learning, with a lot of the communication with the community being engaged, and the conversations that we are trying to have with our cadets about not only the community's lived experience, but also the lived experiences of the cadets. So they can learn from one another. I do think by having people in that class that are not part of that class, or that learning environment may stifle

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conversation that would be healthy and needed for that class to grow and have the understandings that they truly need. So not saying we couldn't do it, but I think that to have a better academy, one that we are committed to making sure, as councilmember Alter said would be the best in the country and to be that model, but if we are engaging and making sure that we have a community police academy together, it is going to be one that will be recognized, and whether or not we need that monitor per se in there, I guess I'm sort of back and forth, but I would prefer not. But definitely, if it's needed, it's needed.

>> Mayor Adler: And are you comfortable in that environment, recognizing that I heard that the objection, or concern was a group of people that could change the dynamic of the class?

[8:18:13 PM]

Obviously this is a pilot program. Cadets are trying to learn as much as they can, to be able to have the -- the community to have a single community observer. Is that something that would work with the class?

>> I think it's something, mayor, that as we're looking at -- and I really appreciate councilmember Casar's thinking about, what does that look like, in working with the evaluator, to come up with a process. Because I think that's one of the things we'd like them to do. I'm not sure not everybody wants to be in all of the eight-month courses that are happening. There will be some courses more important than others, and working with the evaluator to figure out, what does that look like. We'll also have to figure out who could dedicate that amount of time, and frankly, I don't know that we would expect that to be volunteer time. So we would have to think about some kind of compensation for somebody who would take on that role. But that's where we're thinking of particular courses that seem

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pertinent, would be something to work in Kroll. And I think we could be looking at that throughout the process. So I appreciate the creativity.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. So in that regard, then, so as to be able to support the amendments, I would amend councilmember Casar's amendment in two respects. First, I would move the 14 days to 30 days. And then in the language about the observer, right at the end, work with the community, too. And I would add the language, to allow for a community observer as appropriate, and to establish a process of observation and co-evaluation. Councilmember Casar, would those amendments you would accept?

>> Casar: I think if that will get the consensus support, I can do that. As the deputy city manager mentioned, I think this would be a process that we're not fully dictating or laying out here.

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So I would assume that when it comes down to if there are some classes where everybody agrees it's best for there to be a person, or if somebody's available for the first set of classes and somebody that's determined better for the other set, then that -- then I want it to be open and flexible to that. It sounds like you're trying to guarantee that on top of, for example, Kroll, participating, that you're not going to have three additional people. You're saying that you want to minimize the number of folks and maybe they could come up with a system by which they say, here's our -- everybody agrees on who that representative person would be. And maybe at some point that has to be someone else, other than that person, if they're busy, or something. That's my understanding from you.

>> Mayor Adler: That's right. And putting in the language as appropriate to allow for community observer is appropriate, means that they can look at the system and the classes and figure out the best way to do that. Taking into account all of the things that you just mentioned.

>> Casar: That makes sense.

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>> Mayor Adler: Does anybody have any objection to those two changes being made to the Casar amendment?

>> Kitchen: I have a question.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, councilmember kitchen and then councilmember tovo.

>> Kitchen: My question goes to the 30 days. I want to make sure that I'm reading it right. Because councilmember Casar's amendment says that, city manager shall not bring a budget amendment for the class unless all steps are complete, or will be complete within 30 days of the budget amendment. So does that mean that they must be complete before you start the 144th pilot class?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, I think.

>> Kitchen: After the budget amendment before you could start

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the class, is that right?

>> Mayor Adler: Yeah, that line remains, the city manager can only commence the class after initial review have been incorporated.

>> Casar: I think there's two issues, if I can --

>> Mayor Adler: I'm sorry, the city manager may commence the class if all steps in the blueprint are complete.

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: The first sentence in the paragraph.

>> Kitchen: Okay. So that means that we're just -- I'm just wanting to understand how that works in practice. I guess the budget amendment will come back to us and we can make it contingent on completing all steps. But I assume that means that we'll get a report, or that staff will come back to us and let us see that everything is complete? I just want to -- I think that these are -- this is a key point for the public to understand that these things will actually

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be done before the class starts. So I think the language here is good. And I'm fine with the 30 days. I'm just asking practically, how is this going to work?

>> Mayor Adler: City manager, can you certify as the class is beginning, that the blueprint steps have been accomplished?

>> We can, mayor and council. These are part of the structures that not only we are putting in place, but that have been identified as part of the amendments that are being considered by council. I'll ask if the deputy city manager wants to add anything more, but that would be the way in which we're evaluating ourselves, and those steps would be complete before commencing the class.

>> Thank you, manager. That is true. We had anticipated all along when we heard Kroll's report, that that was just a preliminary assessment. APD and their response to Kroll report, so that they would complete most of the items in

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the short-term list by mid-april. So we are wanting Kroll to, a, finish out what they heard and the questions you shared with them at the last meeting, B, finishing up some of the reporting they had to do. They met with other folks as well. And then C, certify that APD had in fact completed those short-term measures, which is what really is guiding the blueprint as we move forward. So we anticipated coming back to you towards the end of April to share back the final Kroll report and to be able to be accountable to what those measures that APD said they would finish are done. So we are hoping to come back, and that should still fit within our 30-day time frame.

>> Kitchen: I'm just going to repeat to make sure I'm understanding. So with this amendment language, may only commence if all steps in the blueprint are complete, there will be a step that staff comes back and publicly reports

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to council, that all items are complete. Is that what I heard?

>> Yes, that is our intention and it is then that we would bring forward to a budget amendment to councilmember alter's point, it is a big moment to think about moving us forward.

>> Kitchen: Yes, but that's not what we -- this reads that the budget amendment would come before the steps are complete.

(Indiscernible).

>> Mayor Adler: Correct. The budget amendment will come back with the manager's representation that they've either been completed or will be completed within 30 days. And Ann, councilmember

kitchen's question is, if the budget amendment was approved, on the basis that these would be completed within 30 days, will there in fact be a certification, and at the end of the 30 days, that in fact the program is completed.

>> Yes.

>> Yes.

>> Kitchen: What does certification mean? Does that mean a memo to

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council, or coming in and talking to us? I'm just trying to be real clear and transparent for the public. What does certification mean?

>> At a minimum a memo to mayor and council, talking about the steps that have been completed and how they were completed. And then we could create space on a work session if needed to have additional discussions around that. But a report that would be a written document talking about the steps that have been completed, and therefore, the class can commence.

>> Kitchen: Okay. Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: Any other comments -- any objections to my amendments to Casar's amendment?

>> Mayor?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> I wanted to just clarify the change to the second bullet. Your edit to councilmember

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Casar's amendment.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes. It would be ending language, continues as an amendment -- an independent evaluator shall be included to observe the 144th pilot class, and such an evaluator, which I imagine may very well be Kroll, shall work with the group of community members such as those from the reimagine safety task force, the review panel, and then I've added the words, allow for a community observer as appropriate, and to establish -- that language.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: I had a question on another part of his amendment. Not on yours.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Without objection then, my amendments to Casar's amendment are now part of the Casar amendment. Back to debate on the Casar

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amendment. Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: Thank you. Councilmember Casar, I wanted to get some -- sorry. I wanted to get some clarification on the first part of the last big red section where you said the city manager may only commence 145th cadet class after recommendations from the evaluation review of the 144th pilot class have been incorporated. The second part of that sentence is already in my amendment and probably stronger in my amendment. But I want to make sure that I'm clear on what that first half means. Because I think there's a couple different ways to interpret it. There's one way to interpret it that I would be comfortable with and another way I wouldn't be, so I wanted to hear what you had in mind.

>> Casar: This is the pilot class that we want to learn from. I think it's really important for that learning to be incorporated into the next

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class, otherwise then you are -- otherwise the next class is essentially also a pilot class. So the goal is for there actually be substantial learning from this class incorporated into the next class, so that we're not -- the next class will have learned from this one. Exactly the timeline and process for that, I haven't directly specified. So I'm open to further defining that in a way that achieves success for the amendment.

>> Alter: So I would just like to clarify, because I agree with what you just said. But I wouldn't be comfortable if what you're saying is, we have to end the 144th class and then go through like a whole evaluation and wait three months, to review the evaluation, and then start the next class. My image of what we are setting out is not only to change the academy, but also to change the whole process so that we're

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reevaluating and fixing things as we go. And so I would expect all of that learning to be part of it. But I wouldn't be so comfortable with saying, we have to pause and wait three months at the end of this academy before we can start the 145th one. And so I just want to clarify that as the former interpretation, and not the latter. Because there's some ambiguity.

>> Casar: I don't --

>> Alter: I would still expect them to do an evaluation and incorporate it, but they wouldn't have to necessarily wait to start to have all of that, the final version done.

>> Casar: So I think what you've drawn here are two versions that are potentially more on sides of the extreme than I would want to see happen. I wouldn't want us to just say, well, we went through that class already, we already went through that academy, so we learned what

[8:31:30 PM]

we needed to learn. And then I think that is too little. Because what you've described sounds to me like real evaluation and learning that can be ipg corporate into the next class. Nor am I saying that we absolutely need a three-month period at the tail end of the 144th. What I'm trying to lay out is less of a timeline and more of a principle that the manager and, frankly, the team -- the entire team that's supporting the manager on this should be able to say confidently that we have been doing evaluation of the pilot class, and that that has actually dutifully been implemented and changes made for the 145th as we go. Does that make sense? So this, again, I think deliberately does not lay out specifically what the timeline is, but rather a principle by which we judge whether that works or not.

>> Alter: Thank you. I appreciate that. And the principle I support.

[8:32:33 PM]

I was just wondering if miss

(indiscernible) Would like to speak what else she's thinking of in terms of evaluation.

>> Sure. Absolutely. So part of the thing that we're trying to build in is evaluation, but also making sure that the cadets feel comfortable being able to do it. I'm already reaching out to academic colleagues to make sure they're willing to do it external, so we have more of an independent evaluation, and that we would then be reporting the aggregate of what happened throughout the academy. But obviously resources are constrained. So the contrast is we would then be doing it internally, but the methodological sort of repercussion is that we may not get the same type of responses from the cadets in terms of their willingness to discuss their experiences.

[8:33:33 PM]

So that's usually why I would say partnering with an academic institution outside, so that they know that their responses are actually anonymous. So those are some of the things that we're working through, and trying to figure out the details of. But those are just some of my initial thoughts on it. However,

either way we'll either be doing it internally or partnering with someone externally so we can perhaps get better responses from the cadets. Just a tradeoff.

>> Mayor Adler: So I would hope that, while the class was going on, there was constant and continual evaluation. I mean, at the end of any day, saying, you know, in the next class, we need to do what we did today differently. And I think that's part of the evaluation. You don't have to wait until the whole class is over to start the evaluation. To Greg's point, councilmember Casar's point, I think there are some things probably that are going to have to be looked at

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after the whole cadet class is over. But then also, some of the evaluations of the cadet class probably comes a year later when you look at cadets that have now been out on the force for a year, and you're looking at how they're experiencing and dealing with being out a year relative to the class they just had. So I'm not sure there are really black and white lines to be drawn with respect to evaluation. I think it goes back to councilmember Casar's point, that the intent here is the principle of, let's make sure that we actually learn from this class before we do the next class. Recognizing that we can start learning on day one of the class, but we will continue learning well after the class is over. That's how I would interpret that. And believe the intent to be as I vote.

>> If I may, mayor.

[8:35:34 PM]

I've heard Dr. Gringan say at least to staff, and I believe that she can clarify if I'm wrong, that certainly the evaluation is intended to be consecutively, and happen throughout the academy. So that we're not starting at the end of it and trying to look back, but rather we're going to take those pieces as they're being periodically evaluated. And then adding them to your point in the aggregate at the end of the academy as well. Am I correct in that?

>> Yes, absolutely. I just tend to get stuck on the details of who does the evaluation to ensure that the data that we actually capture is accurate. Because I think that's really, really important that our cadets feel that they can, you know, respond accordingly. And so, yeah, but in terms of timeline, absolutely throughout the entire academy, and to the mayor's point, one of the things that I know Austin police department is very committed to is improving data systems, so that we can actually follow up

[8:36:35 PM]

after field training. I gave a talk earlier today where this was part of the discussion, is we cannot actually track from who applies to who is successful in their career and how they're doing in field training, and performance measurement. And that is across the nation. So I know that Austin is very committed to being able to do that type of evaluation. But we're just not there yet as we're trying to build out our data systems to do those types of evaluations.

>> Mayor Adler: Any other discussion on the Casar amendment? Councilmember kitchen?

>> Kitchen: I think the statement that councilmember Casar has that we've been talking about, I think is necessary. I think it's a fundamental principle that we will not start our next class until we have incorporated recommendations from the evaluation.

[8:37:35 PM]

So I appreciate that statement. That is what our public -- what our community is expecting. And that's what I would expect -- that's what this is is a pilot. So a pilot means we do it, we learn from it, and then we use what we learned. I would not feel comfortable if we weren't going to use what we learned, and incorporate it in the 145th cadet class. The other thing I wanted to say, going back on my previous point, and I lost connection for a while, so I apologize if I missed this, but I would like to ask the city manager as part of bringing the budget amendment back to us, that he clarify to us exactly what certification means, at the point that, city manager, at the point that you bring the budget amendment to us, you will potentially have 30 days to complete before the class starts. And there will be a

[8:38:36 PM]

certification process. I think we really need to understand exactly what the certification process means. I'm happy to talk with you more about that between now and the time the budget amendment comes back to us. But this is a critical point for all of us to understand, and the public to understand.

[Lapse in audio] We're taking a leap of faith, which we need to do, but we also need to be really, really clear on how we know before it starts, that these changes have been made. So certification concepts sounds good to me, but I still have a lot of questions about what that looks like. But I think we can deal with that as part of a budget amendment. So I would ask that you bring forward to us as part of the budget amendment what you're thinking a certification process means exactly and we can have a conversation at that point, and make sure that it is a process that everyone feels comfortable

[8:39:37 PM]

with as a way to understand when all of these steps are complete. Is that something

(indiscernible), city manager?

>> I certainly hear your feedback and we'll talk to you about just what that essentially purports, and how to make sure that we're showing the completion of the elements in the blueprints to provide council and the community that level of confidence in everything that's been done. I get your point and I understand it.

>> Kitchen: Okay. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: I wanted to close the loop on the conversation before, about the last part. I'm totally onboard on this, as a principle of learning and, you know, given the clarifications of what that meant and what that didn't mean. I'm comfortable with that portion. You know, we're not going to be

[8:40:39 PM]

done learning with the 145th cadet academy, when it starts. And so I just want us to understand that this is an ongoing process. This is a major undertaking. You know, you do your syllabi, your curriculum, and you have to keep modifying it. It can take a long time. This is a lot of complicated moving parts, and a lot of people, and a lot of different things have to be learned. And I think we have to keep that in mind. And then I just wanted to invite Dr. Krimian and city manager, if we need funding so that we can evaluate appropriately, so that we can give confidence to the community and we can know to the extent that you can measure it whether the academy is working, I would encourage us to do that. I would encourage us to think about whether there are graduate students or folks at UT, now that we have this contract, that

[8:41:41 PM]

the deputy city manager arranged, that we can set up some opportunities for some academic study of this, which we may or may not pay for, but that may give somebody some really important data to do some work that could shed light on, that would be interesting to incorporate as appropriate as we move forward, and if we need resources, I would like to hear about that.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Let's take a vote on the Casar amendments. Those in favor of the Casar amendments, please raise your hand? Those opposed? I think that's everybody. We have the main motion in front of us as amended.

>> Mayor?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes?

>> Sorry, mayor, I'm sorry. I believe councilmember tovo

(indiscernible) Were against the amendments.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kelly votes no. Was there another no? Councilmember tovo, did you

[8:42:42 PM]

vote? How did you vote on the Casar amendment?

>> Kelly: It looks like she's frozen.

>> Mayor Adler: She's back. You're muted. You're frozen. You're muted.

>> Can you do a hand signal? Did you vote for it or vote against it?

>> Mayor Adler: Voted for it. All right. 10-1. The Casar amendment passes. Now discussion on the item 37. Councilmember kitchen?

>> Kitchen: Just a clarification. There's some slight differences between the Casar amendment and councilmember alter's amendment.

[8:43:42 PM]

So when they're put together, I'm wanting to understand how that's going to be done. I would assume that councilmember Casar's is amended onto councilmember alter's. So we would -- is it the same language? If you want, it can be specific.

>> Mayor Adler: Why don't you get specific so that we --

>> Kitchen: It may just be the way that I am reading them. But councilmember alter's has -- her language about the independent -- let's see. Incorporating the findings into reforms for future classes. She has, as feasible. So the term "As feasible" doesn't seem consistent with the conversation we just had. Because councilmember Casar doesn't modify his by the term "As feasible." So I would just think that, you

[8:44:45 PM]

know, unless I'm not understanding.

>> I'm not seeing where it says "As feasible."

>> Mayor Adler: You couldn't be expected to do it where it wasn't feasible. So I'm not sure it's actually a conflict. Councilmember Casar?

>> (Indiscernible).

>> Kitchen: What it does to me is it puts a modifier on whether or not you're going to incorporate what we've learned from the pilot into the 145th.

>> So what I meant was that, you know, there may be -- we don't have the final report from Kroll.

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> And there may be, as of now, what they have said, and which is where we have the whereas in the others, they said that you shouldn't do the 145th unless you incorporate all of our long-term recommendations.

[8:45:52 PM]

So we don't (indiscernible) Have that.

>> Kitchen: It's in the bullet before that.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Casar?

>> I don't care if we take out "As feasible."

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> Casar: My staff considered whether we would

(indiscernible). But in looking at it, my sense is they don't conflict anywhere. There are places my language is more specific or strong. Some places where that's the case, and councilmember alter's. Like with other resolutions, my assumption is we could make it explicit, is that since they overlap, wherever it's more specific, specificity controls. Wherever it's control, that higher bar controls. In some places councilmember alter's is more specific. I would assume that would be the guiding principle.

>> Mayor Adler: Manager, are you okay with that interpretation and guidance?

[8:46:55 PM]

>> I defer to others if they have some specific areas of conflict. But I think we can read it that way.

>> Kitchen: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. For what it's worth, I read it "As feasible" with or without that word to be the same thing.

>> Kitchen: I just want to be clear. Because for the public, you know --

>> Mayor Adler: That's okay.

>> Kitchen: -- They would be wondering what that means.

>> Mayor Adler: Base motion 37 is in front of us as amended. Let's go ahead and take a vote. Those in favor, please raise your hand.

>> Casar: The final vote here, I think (indiscernible).

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Casar: I saw her raise her hand.

>> Mayor Adler: Mayor pro tem, do you want to speak?

>> Harper-madison: I have a question. Hopefully I haven't missed that opportunity.

>> Mayor Adler: You have not.

>> Harper-madison: I appreciate councilmember kitchen's line of questioning, and I think -- I got kicked out for a little bit, but I think I heard something that I was thinking about, you

[8:47:56 PM]

know, how and when do we assess the proficiency. And so I think -- I'm getting the feeling that was addressed. But I don't know whether or not we have made it plain, what does this item do? You know, I heard a lot of folks who -- their commentary seemed to indicate, for me, that voting yes on this item tonight says we are voting yes to, you know, here on out, to resuming cadet classes for the Austin police department. And I just want to -- I guess I'd just like for somebody to lay plain what this item does for the folks who have lots of questions about its true meaning.

>> Sure, councilmember. I'm happy to answer that question. I think with this resolution as amended says is that it is

[8:48:57 PM]

asking for council's approval to move forward with the cadet class, in the circumstances that the content and the blueprint are met. So if the areas where we talk about transformative changes in the blueprint are not met, then the cadet class will not move forward. So essentially, it lays out that path that says, these are the things that we need to change. We're asking for your approval to allow that to move forward, and this is the path that we're going to go on, and if we continue the path and get to our destination, then the class can move forward. If we don't get to our destination, there is no class.

>> Harper-madison: I appreciate that.

>> Mayor Adler: Miss gringan, in the amendment there was a -- they said the academy curriculum

[8:49:59 PM]

review committee has got to meet at least four times. I guess this would be before the class would start. Is there enough time for you to schedule and then hold those number of meetings? It's not a lot of time. I want to make sure that you put at least those four on the calendar so that they're calendared and held. Is there sufficient time to do this?

>> Sure. Just so I can make sure I'm clear on the timeline, is it four times before the 30 days prior, or is it four times before the start of the academy class?

>> Mayor Adler: Before the academy classes. But if they haven't been held, the manager's going to need to certify that they will be held.

>> Sure. Absolutely. So the way that we've looked at our calendar thus far, it's been five times every two weeks, with us finishing out next week, who would actually be on the

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academic curriculum review. But we're still looking for academics, and various other community members. So I do actually ask the council to please feel free to send me an e-mail with any names of people you would also be interested in, so we can do a larger search from the search that we've started. But yeah, we should be able to do so.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. I urge you to schedule those as quickly as you can. I don't want to fall victim to just a scheduling.

>> Absolutely. I hear you.

>> Mayor, she wasn't quite done.

>> Mayor Adler: I was open to come back to you. Apologies for that.

>> No worries. It looks like councilmember tovo is still struggling with her internet, and I feel some sense of obligation to make sure she's able to participate as well. This is a very important conversation. I think we should have the full dais if we can.

>> Thank you, mayor pro tem.

>> Harper-madison: There she is.

[8:52:02 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: We hear you twice.

>> Tovo: I know. I'm sorry.

>> Mayor Adler: That's okay.

>> Tovo: My computer desktop keeps freezing, so I'm here also oddly on my phone. So I'm going to turn my phone camera off, but when I want to be back -- when I want to converse with you guys, I'm going to have to switch to my phone. But I'm here. Thank you so much, mayor pro tem, for the question.

>> Harper-madison: Of course. I guess I'll just sort of move into final commentary then. I'm struggling with this item, if I'm being entirely candid. I want to thank everybody who's added their voice to this conversation, over the year. We originally passed my resolution that called for the review of our police department's training protocols. And we set a deadline for June of 2020, then the pandemic. But, you know, it really did have the silver lining that it gave us time to really hold our

[8:53:06 PM]

cadet training conversation into a larger dialogue in reimagining public safety. So I think we would be doing ourselves and everyone watching a disservice if we don't remember what brought us here. I appreciate chief gay pointed that out. It is really one of my founding principles in our public safety. And our journey toward justice. That trip has to involve -- it has to involve reconciling with the racism that continues to lurk in the shadows of our public institutions. And recognize that sometimes it slips out into the light, in full view. I think getting rid of the so-called bad apples is not the full solution. We have report after report after report that talk about our culture, bigotry and sexism, and I think -- I'm super inspired by the work our community has done. And I recognize that this desire to restart cadet classes is

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deep, and, you know, very personal for some folks. And I absolutely recognize, while I also appreciate the amendments that were presented by councilmember Casar and alter, I think they addressed a lot of my concerns, but I also just want to make sure that we're being very clear when we're having this conversation and deliberation, that this is not the final decision to resume cadet classes. This is one of a two-step process. And so I'm in lock step with the community here, when they tell us don't resume, we're not ready, we haven't done what it is that they've expected from us, you know, we haven't had the opportunity to hear from the reimagining public safety task force. I want to make sure that they know that I support them, and that rationale. But I also recognize that

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flipping this one switch is not the end-all. We have one more switch to flip. I'll be listening closely when the task force tells us what they have to tell us in the coming weeks. I think what they say, and what our constituents, who have spent so much of their time being a part of this conversation say. All of that will be in my decision about flipping the second switch to resume the academy. We have a loss of trust. I really think we can't move forward until we're certain we can be transparent, that we can be collaborative and that we can regain that trust. And truthfully, I'm not entirely convinced that we're there yet. I do think the amendments are a step in the right direction, and I look forward to continuing this conversation.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Casar, then councilmember kitchen.

>> Casar: Thanks, mayor. I do want to take a minute to,

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again, like mayor pro tem said, to remind us what got us here. I want to thank the former cadets that came and testified to us now, so many months ago, that I think really shaped my views on this. And I think so many views in the community. And I know that's not an easy thing to do. So I appreciate them coming forward. I appreciate the change that has happened since then, because certainly through these presentations, it's clear that there has been change, and I appreciate people within the department, and now you, miss craigan, and the folks at Kroll and equity office and everybody who has worked to create some real change to this point, and more promised change here in the blueprint. And I also want to appreciate the task force members, and their continued work. I think it's important to point out from the manager's memo that these dollars, that would be presented to us, would not come from the reimagining safety

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dollars, nor would they come from the services we've chosen to improve. So I still think we can get and receive those recommendations on the budget, and will be looking towards those recommendations. This doesn't short-circuit that. And I also want to appreciate councilmembers for, one, these amendments, and two, taking the time to make the hard decision of pausing the academy for a short while, because clearly changes are being made, and I don't think we would have had these changes if not for that vote. I do want to recognize some of that important work and appreciate the amendments being incorporated. I also ultimately, and the people I've been able to tell, that I'm still not at a place where I'm comfortable supporting this, primarily because the --

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so much of this work I believe could have gotten done leading to this point, where we really brought agreements in the community, that we were fully ready. You know, I appreciate that we're going to have the four meetings with the curriculum review team, but it would have best to have had them so we're not trying to say, let's get them done before a budget amendment. And then to say, and the budget amendments can come with 30 days left to complete steps, because we aren't there yet. And so I still don't feel fully comfortable that we have taken the time necessary to get this baked in time for it starting. I think with -- it could have been just a few weeks, that could have gotten more folks there. But I do appreciate the important work in the blueprint, and important improvements made over time. And so I want to appreciate that work, because that is real work, even if it still hasn't gotten all the way there for me yet.

[8:59:11 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: Okay.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember Fuentes.

>> Fuentes: Thank you. I think for me this is a tough one, and certainly thank you to everyone involved, the police department, the task force for coming together and with this council, with the exception of councilmember Kelly and I, this council committed to reimagine public safety and know that conversation has been a long time coming and one that our community is dedicated to. It gives me hope to see the commitment for the recommendation, the short and long-term recommendations that were laid out in the Kroll report and to see progress already made on those recommendations. But what doesn't sit right with me is that the task force was not engaged in the blueprint and the laying out of the path forward. And so I think we need to

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walk in had not with our community and set up a community task force structure that they should be equally at the table and understanding the process and having the opportunity to weigh in, especially when you lay out the process to move forward. As mayor pro tem harper-madison said, this is a two-step process and I know that today's vote is attendant on the next vote that will fund the academy. On this vote I'm going to abstain and I hope to see more progress done so that I can get to a place of yes and funding the cadet academy. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Colleagues, where I am on this -- chief, did you want to say something?

>> Just making sure you can hear me, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Wick hear you.

>> Thanks, I appreciate it mayor, mayor pro tem, councilmembers, Joseph

[9:01:12 PM]

Chicon, assistant chief with the police department. I know one of the next items he will take up is talking about my confirmation but I didn't want to lose the moment right now. We're talking about this very important topic to just voice my commitment to move this effort forward for our police department, for this community, to ensure -- for all the reasons that have been stated here, I certainly don't need to repeat them. But just for you to know that I'm in lock step with everything that we're trying to accomplish and that you have my commitment to move it forward. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Chief, thank you. You know, I appreciate, colleagues, beginning with recognizing where we started with this. And we've already been because I think that's really important. And I think it is kind of remarkable that it was the mayor pro tem's actual movement in 2019 that said we need to take a look at the curriculum and that the

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cadet classes. We went through that next year and as part of the budget process we did I think three really important things with respect to the cadet classes. The first thing we said is we would cut the three classes and that we would repurpose those dollars to other public safety expenditures that is right priorities in the community and we have seen how that six and a half million dollars has been replayed for mental health intervention and housing so that people can get out of tents and off our corners and housing for spouses that and spouses being threatened in the homes. I think that was a really good reuse of those dollars that really focused on what it takes to keep a community

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safe. The second thing we did is recognized as part of that same action that we would consider doing another cadet class or two in fiscal year 21. And obviously we're not considering anything more than this one right now, but it was something that we indicated at the same time we took that earlier action that we would do. The third thing that we did back in that budgets process was we cut some of the police positions, unfilled police positions and redesignated a and identified what was our authorize the personnel count at that time and we did that after the positions that we cut. I think it's important to note that even with a 144th cadet class and those cadets

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becoming police officers, we will still be below the authorized police count that we set at the same time that we were cutting those three police cadet classes and at the same time that we were cutting positions. On the police force. This is entirely consistent with the actions that we took back then because it set up what has been a pretty remarkable process to really reimagine public safety and policing and the context of public safety and I'm really proud to live in a city that recognizes the true and real transformative change often requires some measure of disruption in order to actually do really fundamental work. There are a lot of other cities that have talked

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about imagining police and public safety, but very few of them are actually doing the work. And our community is. Our police doesn't want the way it intersects with poverty. The community doesn't want the police to be the mental health first responders. And this is the work of reimaging public safety. The equity office is going to help us understand what a police force looks like with those kind of responsibilities removed. Better delegated. There could be a day when we don't need police and then I - I eagerly wait for the day we get there, but that day isn't today. And there's much work to do, but we also have to recognize that that much work has already been done.

[9:06:22 PM]

We have the reports from Dr. Villanueva, Dr. Ferguson, the community assessment, the James Joyce consulting report, the reports from the video review panel, the cbrc summary reports, plus the work that is by this blueprint still has to be done before any new cadet class starts. The city manager's blueprint I think recognizes the work that has been done, but also the work that still needs to be done. Continuing recognizes that cadets probably recognize our best chance at adding diversity on to our police force. These cadets can and must be the cultural change agents in our police force. We need to change the culture of APD and that includes how we train and how we educate new officers and we need to do that well

[9:07:26 PM]

and we need cadets and police officers and we need to do both. And I believe our blueprint today moves us forward in a constructive way. Process isn't perspective, the path's not going to please everybody yet again there is no city in the country that is doing more than Austin in reimaging public safety and for that I think we should all be proud I am, and I'm going to vote for this resolution. Councilmember kitchen.

>> Kitchen: I am also torn on this one because I agree with the intentions, and I think there are good intentions here. But in order to earn the trust of the community, we have to be transparent and show results. So I will vote for it today, but just on a couple of conditions. One, this is a two-step

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process as mayor pro tem pointed out. I will not be voting for the budget amendment. If I don't have some clarity on what the certification process is in other words, I have an expectation -- I will have an expectation in voting for budget amendment that we have either completed Ora Houston I will have security that I know will be completed and I will know what the certification process is. So the fundamental thing here is that with councilmember Casar's and the other amendments what we are saying here is that the cadet class will not begin until after the Kroll report, after the final Kroll report, and the report from the task force are presented to us. And that will not be begun until after all of the items

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in the blueprint are met. So that's my expectation so I'm a little uncomfortable today so it's not entirely clear to me on what that certification process is, but I will vote to move this forward, but the expectation will be that at the point that a budget amendment is brought to us I want to have a version process transparent to the public so that we will know that the blueprint items have been met before we start the class. Thank you, councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Thank you, mayor and thank you, everyone, for providing your unique perspective on this. I feel there are a few fundamental services that can be provided to humanity and jayhawks. We require on schools to enlighten reform and encourage. They also promote character and build bonds of friendship in the community. In the case of our Austin police cadet the education

[9:10:29 PM]

is to protect and serve. Our police department over the last year has been vilified, smeared, broken apart and silenced. Morale has plummeted. These officers are our employees. No employee of the city of Austin regardless of the department that they worked for should ever have been demoralized andnined the way police have been these past few years. I am hopeful that we can create meaningful change in the department and start with a new academy. May today be a turning point here in Austin as we finally pass for a diverse and compassionate police force to educate, grow and be proud of. It's a first small step in what I hope will be a movement towards a realistic approach to policing. I commend the work that APD has done to improve their culture, methods and information flow with the economy. I

believe there should be no further delay or no further restrictions on our cadet class. I hope that the time is now to bring forward the police academy and I hope we can bring back a time when it was protocol on council to

[9:11:30 PM]

speaking highly of council whose ideas are opposite our own even more so if they're our employees or valued public safety officers. Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember Kitchen.

>> Kitchen: There was one part I've not been entirely clear on when I say the term process. And I use the term process, process for certifying that the blueprint items have been met. I think it will be important, city manager, that there is a part of that process that involves the community. So I'll be happy to work with you, but I think that the community needs to be part of that certification process so we can have some certifications on what that might look like. Got it. Anyone else want to take a vote before we take a vote.

[9:12:31 PM]

>> Councilmember Ellis had her hand up before.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Ellis, do you want to go?

>> Ellis: Yes, and I saw that Pio may have had his hand up. We'll all look out for each other.

>> Mayor Adler: Sorry, guys.

>> Ellis: That's okay. My thoughts on this have been well expressed by a number of my colleagues. Probably most similarly to how councilmember Kitchen kind of laid it out. Cautious. There is still work to do, still voices to be heard, but I think it's important after so many stakeholders have been able to provide input that we understand what the next steps are and what the expectations are moving forward. So because we've been able to map out a number of different items of framework in the blueprint, some guardrails, there will be a budget amendment and I'm also very curious to know how the certification will look so that we'll understand that we're not letting go of some process

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that we care about so deeply. So I'm willing to support this today knowing that there are those guardrails in place and really appreciate all of the work that's gone into it to truly get to a place where we are reimagining public safety.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Renteria.

>> Renteria: Thank you, mayor. I'm also going to be supporting this item. You know, when it first came on I was a big advocate for community policing. We implemented community policing in our neighborhood and saw how it improved our neighborhood and made it safer. And so I really hope that this new training -- I was excited to hear that they were going to pause the training and allow the cadets to go out into the community and do that. I think it's important that we do that.

[9:14:32 PM]

That these officers need to get out there before they get influenced by any other officer and get to learn the community and understand the issues that we're facing out here. APD I feel like we'll be doing it the right way where we'll be able to solve a lot of our problems. So I'm really optimistic that this could be a new policing, and I just hope that -- and you will have my support to sure that it gets done right now. If not I'll be the first one to be voting against any more classes.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Anyone want to speak before I recognize councilmember alter? Councilmember alter. Leslie pool. Councilmember pool.

>> Pool:

[9:15:35 PM]

Why not. This has been a long road, a really long road. And I feel a sense of optimism and a coming together in our community that I really hope we can make even more robust. I will be supporting this. I think it's the right thing for us at this time and I think our staff is very clear on what the expectations of the dais are and the community, and of each other and the leadership of this city and the path forward going forward for our city. It's been hard and I would like us to have some successes that we can all join in and be proud of. And so I look forward to the next iteration that staff will be bringing forward to

[9:16:36 PM]

us. Thank you so much for the work that you all have been doing with the community and the stakeholders and there's way more ahead. And this is a vote of confidence from me that you will be able to accomplish. The heavy task that's in front of you.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: Thank you. I want to thank our staff and our community and this body for all the work that has gone in to get us to where we are at this point. We are on this journey of reimagining public safety and we're doing it at a time that we're dealing with a pandemic and a climate crisis and a storm and everything else. And I'm really proud that we have been willing to take risks. We've been willing to say we're not good enough.

[9:17:36 PM]

We've been willing to say that not everybody in our community feels safe. We've been able to recognize that we ask too much of our police officers and that we have an obligation to provide an education to our officers so that they can become the officers that we know that they can be. Tonight's vote is not the final vote. We have to take a vote on the budget. And I believe what I've heard loud and clearly and I concur with my colleagues is that we will not advance that budget amendment if the steps that are promised in this blueprint are not fulfilled. And that -- let that be an incentive to all who are responsible for getting that done that we mean business. We expressed that in August when we didn't extend the other class.

[9:18:39 PM]

We will follow through if we need to. At the same time we're on this journey as a community. We have many needs that we have to meet, staffing being one of those. And by saying we move forward today we're taking a leap of faith but taking that together with our staff and APD so that we can take the next step on this journey. Even the 144th class, it is a pilot. The 145th class we're going to have to come up with another name for it. It's going to be our pilot 2.0. It is going to take time to get this right, and what we're trying to launch today is a culture and a commitment and a willingness to allow us to learn and perfect and get it right so that we can transform our police department. So I'm excited and nervous and I recognize that this is not a perfect process, but I think it's the next step

[9:19:40 PM]

that we need to take on our journey. So thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Anything else, colleagues, before we take a vote? Let's take a vote. Those in favor of this item 37 as amended please raise your hand. Those opposed please raise your hand. Councilmember Casar voting no. Those abstaining? Abstaining please raise your hand? The mayor pro tem and councilmember Fuentes. The others voting aye. It passes 8-1-2. All right. Good work. We have two more

items. Remember, don't forget that we laid on the table the seven, rather. We'll come back to that, ozone. Before we do that let's take care of item 117.

[9:20:49 PM]

Is there a motion to approve the nomination? Councilmember pool makes the motion. Is there a second? Councilmember Kelly seconds. Discussion on this motion? Councilmember Casar, do you want to address this?

>> Casar: Yes, mayor. I appreciate your patience, chief Chacon, having testified at the legislature today and spent a day at the capitol and then to be here today on what I know is a significant day for you. I appreciate the chance to speak with you. I grout you on being -- congratulate you for being put forward today for confirmation. And just to let everybody know, I've sent some questions over to the chief and I know the answers and I appreciate you actually

[9:21:51 PM]

answering yes to all of the questions. It shows you leaning into this position. So it's not a -- I'm forecasting that because that's what you've said, but I think it's also important to ask some number of questions here in public just because it's an important vote and I think it sets forward some of our shared priorities. And I'm sure as there will always be among all of us different times that we disagree, but I appreciate your commitment on some of this work. So I'm not going to ask you all the questions that I sent, but just some of them. So the first one is that I expect -- my first questions had to do with the opo. The first one is that I expect in many cases you will agree with recommendations with the opo, but there will potentially be times you disagree. If there's a policy recommendation from opo that you don't implement or adopt agree with, will you in those cases singled a memo to council explaining your

[9:22:53 PM]

rationale?

>> Thank you, councilmember Casar and mayor and council. I appreciate the opportunity of even being considered. I am really honored for this opportunity. To answer the question, yes, I have no problem. Part of our process when the opo sends over a policy recommendation of course we fully vet it, consider it to see whether it would, you know, follow best practices and -- or if it's problematic for some reason. And I commit to as I understanding back written responses to director muscadin so that she knows either yes we're going to fully implement, maybe we can partially implement and we can have those discussions, or there is a disagreement. I think it's important for both of our departments to have that conversation to fully discuss the topic, and

[9:23:54 PM]

in the end if we just cannot come to terms to have that discussion with the city manager, make sure that they understand what the topic is and we would issue a written response that is posted on their website and is available to everyone including mayor and council.

>> Casar: Thank you. I think something that could be useful is if there are several of those to match them together intermittently and get them over to us so that we have them. My second question related to opo is will you ensure that all questions that opo wants asked in an ai interview if they're pertinent questions to the investigation indeed do get asked?

>> Yes. I think that's an eases one for me to actually commit to because if it is a pertinent question then it should be asked. I think sometimes there are differences in opinion about whether something is pertinent. And I commit to work with

[9:24:57 PM]

Farah's office to make sure that we work through those issues so that we minimize them to the greatest extent and get the questions that her officements asked and make sure that they are asked.

>> Casar: Great. And my third and last question related to the opo is issues were raised about internal affairs has dealt with complaints from the complaint. Can you work with the opo within the first 30 days after being confirmed as interim chief on how to deliver fixes to those issues that have been raised and then deliver us a joint memo with your steps moving forward? And I would hope in the memo you could talk about how to make sure that external complaints are worked on as thoroughly as those that are internal, you could work on in that memo how to have a process for disagreement about whether a question is is pertinent or not, how that would get handled? Is that something that you can deliver to us in the first 30 days or work on in

[9:25:57 PM]

the first 30 days of your time?

>> Certainly for my part because you're asking for a joint memo, I don't want to speak for director Musca kin, but I think that she would be -- yeah. I think she would be very agreeable to that as well. I've had several conversations with her already to talk about our relationship between the two departments. And I think that we have -- we've made some good first steps forward. So I do think that both of us would be very agreeable to issuing a memo of course that would outline those steps.

>> Casar: Right. My next question is about start. We've been working some time to work on sexual assault in Austin, working alongside sexual survivors and sexual advocates. The da and multiple law enforcement agencies have rejoined the start. I know some part of APD has

[9:26:57 PM]

been present, including APD services, but that sworn has not recently been there. Will you rejoin the start with full personnel including sworn?

>> Yes, we will be rejoining the start in full and pretty clear the victim services unit and our forensics division had never stopped going to those meetings. We wanted to make sure we maintained a presence while we -- under the last da we actually were going to two different meetings. So now with everything being rejoined under one start, yes, we will be rejoining in the fall.

>> Casar: I want to ask a question about substance use. Today we approved some substance use contracts to better get at the root issues that we have in the community and you may have talked about how you can't just arrest away addiction and it's not that simple. What ideas might you have

[9:27:58 PM]

about how we can better address substance use issues that we know don't simply get solved by policing? Knowing that it's an important issue and a significant issue in our community?

>> Right. So substance use often intersects with some other areas of great concern for the community and the police department including people who were experiencing homelessness, people with mental health issues. And so we've been working-- I personally have been working on Travis county behavioral health and criminal justice advisory committee on several areas where we can try and intercept those folks that are having these -- all of these types of issues, including substance use issues at an earlier point before their interaction with the criminal justice system. Whether that is interaction with police at all and

[9:28:58 PM]

hopefully before they have to go to jail. And so this multi-disciplinary team is really making some good progress on some different ideas including expanding the sobering center has actually been expanding their efforts in this area to -- because many times our officers will transport individuals that are intoxicated not just on control, but on other substances to see how we can get them enrolled in services and get them like I said out of that criminal justice system. There are some other things in the works as well. So I've been committed to this for a long time and I've indicated to all these folks that I've been

participating with on committees that that is only going to get stronger and kind of reinforcing that commitment.

>> Casar: Thank you. I have two last questions for you. On issues of use of force, we note the opo has released

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a report detailing recommendations on it can't wait and those general order changes. We also know that council passed a resolution to address shooting at moving vehicles, limiting no knock warrants, addressing facial recognition and military equipment. On these sets of issues, there's still work to be done on those general order updates. Are you ready to work on those general order recommendations and to bring those changes away that really tries to achieve agreement between the cprc, the department, the opo, all of the stakeholders. Can you try to do your very best to bring consensus on those changes?

>> Yes. I will commit to working on these issues. Understanding the intent of the it can't wait policy recommendations. We've been working for some

[9:30:59 PM]

timing on trying to find the ways that we can I am limit them without sacrificing public safety or officer safety. Both of those obviously are very important. So there are a number of best practice models that are out there that have been instituted by respected institutions like perf and by isap that are helping to drive those conversations but I can tell you that I have a strong commitment to continuing to work on those so that in the end we walk out with something that the cprc, the opo and APD can all say that they had a hand in and that everybody can get behind.

>> Casar: Thank you. Last question and related to a broader imaging work that we're all doing and trying

[9:31:59 PM]

to find alternative responders for appropriate 911 calls that might be better handled by someone other than a sworn officer or things that could be better and more cost effectively handled by civilians, and reducing the workload on sworn officers. What are some of the biggest opportunities that you might see in the reimagining safety office where you think we can actually be more effective and think of things differently and really make our community more safe?

>> Probably I would say that the biggest opportunity is in the area of mental health. We not too long ago, December of last year I believe that we instituted and started our crisis call diversion program in our call taking center for 911 calls. And to to my knowledge we're only department in the consultant that has a fourth option in the call taking script where when it's answered they say do you need police, fire, ems or

[9:33:01 PM]

mental health? If they say mental health, they're diverted to a counselor to see if we can, as I said, kind of divert that response away from police and get them with a true experts or mental health experts with integral care. There's a number of other areas that -- with regard to mental health that we continue to make these kind of -- this kind of progress and these efforts continue. And I do think that the more that we can take those type of calls that are better handled by people other than by the police who truly have the expertise and give our officers more time to handle the more serious criminal activity that we know is happening, everybody is going to be better for it. So I will commit to continuing those kind of efforts.

>> Casar: Thank you. Chief. This is a really challenging job and I know you served the department for a long time in this work.

[9:34:02 PM]

I appreciate you making those commitments to going to start and implementing those policies and working with us in these interim months on the reimagining safety process. So I want to wish you the best and will support you in this role.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Chief, this is not an easy city probably to be police chief. It's a city that is really trying to truly draw on a whiteboard and advance and take advantage of opportunities that are not run-of-the-mill or already incorporated by other cities, but to really examine what it takes to take an already safe city and make it even safer. When that happens it draws a

[9:35:03 PM]

certain level of credittism, including up the receipt -- criticism, including up the street here in the pink dome. And as the police chief in this community it can be difficult given the controversy around policy. I've frequently said that it's important that the chief executive of the police department in Austin be someone that not only was willing to execute the community will for how public safety should be done,

but an executive that shares in the reason for that and the basis for that so that it goes beyond just executing the instructions, but believes that there's an important reason to do that.

[9:36:05 PM]

You testified today up at the capitol as our community representative on questions of policing in an environment that is not altogether friendly for the city in its efforts here. And by all accounts you were great. And I think that the way that you opened your testimony in talking about the importance of furthering the community will in order to be able to build trust -- at a bottom level that's what so much of this is about. It's having everyone in this community trust the police department, trust that they're going to be representative safe. Trust that the police are

[9:37:07 PM]

there to protect them. It's the trust of all of the community in our police as our guardians is really the base value that makes policing work. I congratulate you on the promotion and the nomination. I'll be supporting it and I just wanted to note that today again you stepped into that place and you were a wonderful advocate of what it is that this community is trying to achieve.

>> Thank you, mayor.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember tovo and then councilmember Kelly. Can't hear you, Kathie.

[9:38:09 PM]

[Garbled audio].

>> The chipmunk is back.

>> Tovo: Okay. How about this?

>> Mayor Adler: That's good.

>> Tovo: I'll be very quick especially since we were talking about substance use and diversion programs. For the assistant chief soon to be interim chief Chacon for your work on the sobering center board and I've had the pleasure of working with you in that capacity and I'm excited to see you stepping into this role as interim chief. Thank you for all your service to the city of Austin, but thank you for being willing to serve in this new capacity. I have a tremendous amount of confidence in you.

>> Thank you, councilmember, I appreciate it.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Thank you. I wanted to thank you as well, assistant chief Chacon, soon to be interim chief for reaching out to me

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this week. I know you reached out to all the other city councilmembers to start a build a foundation upon which your relationship with us will be in. And it's very positive, especially the communication back and forth and the transparency between your department and the questions that we all have. So thank you.

>> Thank you. I appreciate it.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember alter.

>> Alter: Thank you. Chief Chacon, congratulations. I'm pleased to support your nomination. I do have a couple of questions I wanted to follow up on our conversation earlier this week. You know, particularly to reflect on the conversation we just completed with respect to the academy. Trust is broken in community and I'd like to hear from you what commitment you can give us that APD will

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implement these recommendations and truly transform the academy and the culture, getting us to this 144th class pilot is going to be on your watch completely. I suspect given the timing. And I just want to hear from you what your commitment is. Obviously we heard some conservations in the community and as you step into your new role I would like to hear you on this very important topic.

>> Certainly. I appreciate it. So trust, if we're going to build trust within the community, it's really built on two principles, the way that we're communicating, the police department to the stakeholders, whether that's council, whether it's our community stakeholders, and even within the department itself. And then the transparency, you know, that we have and to the comments the mayor kind of opened with, I made

[9:41:11 PM]

some comments at the state capitol today really highlighting where we fell short and why I think that many of the actions that have been taken by council over last year have occurred. And if -- we have to -- we really have to acknowledge where the department can do better and then lay out that plan on how we're going to get there. And that's what the blueprint and the plan really to get our academy going

again is all about. Under my watch, and we've brought on some just really incredible people that have been working on this project, including Dr. Indecrin, who has already in her short time here brought a really good perspective and knowledge into that is going to inform this process. There's going to be a lot of

[9:42:12 PM]

scrutiny on it. That's a good thing to make sure that we don't let it veer off track. So I feel very confident that with the commitment that I'm making and that APD collectively is making to ensure that we are building those guardians that I know people really want to see in the community that it's not going to fail.

>> Alter: Thank you. We've been talking a little about the academy and the training for cadets and one of the things that we talked about at the start of the conversation was the pride that you have in the men and women who serve in APD and the confidence in their abilities and going out everyday and risking their lives in serving and the importance of that. Thank you explain a little bit about, a, how you want

[9:43:12 PM]

to continue to help them develop as leaders and as guardians and then also speak to how you as chief and your executive group are going to make efforts to listen to the officers because they have great ideas, they have thoughts, they have innovations that have not always of late been able to surface.

>> Yeah, absolutely. Through a series of meetings that I've already been having with our department members at various levels. I met with commanders this week. Of course I've met with executive staff to lay out what my plan and my vision is for how we will really improve morale. We will create an environment of professional development, create areas where our employees feel empowered and that we are espousing true servant

[9:44:15 PM]

leadership by empowering them and by giving them the tools that they're going to need to be successful. Just this week we had members at various ranks starting with first lines supervisors all the way up to commanders and assistant chiefs that are going through professional development training that we are putting on. This is going to be a continuous process that's going to take months that will be very introspective for officers to understand themselves and then through the guidance and leadership that I know our command staff will be able to provide and push down through the ranks to the officers

all the way to the line level we will be instilling that servant leadership mindset. By creating within our own department the principles of procedural justice, which really all that means is

[9:45:15 PM]

just very transparent in the things we're doing, good communication with our own folks, giving them a voice in the things that we are doing at the department to make sure that we not only -- they have the opportunity to help drive and innovate, but also that they have the buy-in down the road and then explaining the why on when sometimes things change. We have not always been the best about doing that. I think that's probably any big organization communication will always be a challenge. But that is one of my highest priorities for executive and command staff going forward. So those are the kind of strategies that I'm really laying out for our folks very early on to -- in how we will drive that change and how we are going to drive that professional development.

>> Alter: Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Anybody else? Mayor pro tem I don't think has had a chance to go yet.

>> Harper-madison: I almost didn't.

[9:46:15 PM]

Thank you, mayor. Chief Chacon, I have had the good fortune of having had some very difficult conversations with you this last couple of years. And I will say that I appreciate the maturity required for a person to remain professional during the course of tense conversations and sometimes on the receiving end of criticism. So I appreciate that and I look forward to us having a good working relationship while you're here. And so I guess my questions kind of piggyback on the ones already asked. Because those were so not as granular as the one I would like to ask, I'm going to ask some specific questions about things that I've heard in the past and have found myself wanting to make sure aren't the way of the future.

[9:47:16 PM]

So the way I understand it, you know, the fifth floor, right, it's this -- it's like the never-ending story. It's the place you're trying to get to. I don't know. It feels to me like there's a very distinct separation between the people who work on the fifth floor and the people who don't work on the fifth floor. And I want people to know there's a culture shift in shifting that mentality. I want to know what your opinion is that, you know, part of the culture and ideally what it looks like for you.

>> I don't think that has ever been the intent. It was very much the outcome. And I recognize from, as you said, criticisms that have been levied against myself and other members of executive staff for creating a divide or allowing it to

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happen, but I can tell you that under my leadership that will change. And I've made it very clear already to executive staff that we are going to be spending quite a bit of time with our officers in the field, whether that is in meetings that they have if they're investigative units or on patrol with our officers so that they feel we're creating spaces in an environment for them to be able to have meaningful conversations. And I think that that has been lacking to a great extent. Our command staff is fully on board with this. As a matter of fact, I think they're pretty excited about it. So I feel like we're already starting to bridge the divide that was there and it's going to be a good way forward.

>> Harper-madison: I appreciate that and it makes me think about something else I heard. Here in this last especially year and a half or so

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there's been some -- I know one of my colleagues spoke to morale in general. I just want to make sure to point out that for some officers that sort of loss of morale, loss of the love of the job didn't come from the general public or our constituents, it came from within the department. It came from their co-workers, their peers. And I just want to make certain that in this shift, in this adjustment that when we're talking about people's quality of life, we mean including the ability to do this job, we want them have the best job and enjoy their job and enjoy their workers and not fear retaliation or abuse. And so I just want to make certain that that's a key component to our conversation about reimagining. And I hope that as we are searching for the chief who

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understands the concept of keeping everybody safe, including within the department, no tolerance whatsoever for that kind of behavior. I hope that that's something that you will carry it and be the legacy.

>> I hope to be. And I can tell you that I was talking with civilian and sworn leadership about how we are changing up some of our processes, entry level processes on documents that people fill out and on the initial meetings that they're having as they integrate in as a city employee. That there are strong statements that say that harass. , Retaliation, racism, all of those are -- will not be tolerated at the

Austin police department. And so they have to actually sign -- check a box saying that they acknowledge this and that they agree to abide by it. So we're instituting a

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culture now that from the very first moment that they come in they know what the ground rules are and that it will not be tolerated. And for our officers that are already here to have an attitude of active bystanderism to if they see something that they will call it out. And I think that happens all the time. I know that director muscadin is aware that many more internal affairs complaints are generated internally than externally with our own officers or supervisors calling out when they see policy violations like that and others that occur. So we continually strive to make our morale better. I think that the national narrative has worn on their morale as well. You can't get it from

[9:52:24 PM]

television and social media and everything that our officers have been through the last nine to 12 months and not have it affect you as well. But I certainly to your point understand what you're saying.

>> Harper-Madison: I appreciate that. Thank you, I wish you luck.

>> Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kitchen.

>> Kitchen: Yes, thank you. I personally wanted to thank you for the work that you've been doing with the Austin Cares program. As you mentioned earlier, that's -- that is a very innovative program and it's something that really puts us at the forefront of addressing mental health issues in the way that they should be. So it's very exciting that we're now at the point where we have a fourth option. And so I know -- I really am looking forward to the full implementation of all the different recommendations that were made that are part of that Austin Cares

[9:53:24 PM]

program. So I really appreciate your efforts guiding it to this point and from your comments earlier I'm sure we can trust you to continue to make that a priority.

>> Absolutely, thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember Kelly.

>> Kelly: Yes, thank you. I was just wondering if the different -- the 100 different positions that were recently moved back on to patrol if there was any plan to move forward to put those specialized units back or not if there was anything like that that you had plans for.

>> I'm not sure that we're going to have people back in place in the interim period to be able to make those kind of moves. So there are no short-term plans to move people back to those positions right now.

[9:54:27 PM]

The reason we moved them there was to make sure we had enough patrol officers to make sure we had enough adequate officers on patrol with good response times and they're providing that service for 911 calls. So unfortunately we had to make some changes. I would love to see down the road as we have our academy classes running again and restart to refill the ranks that we are able to move dollars back to the specialized positions that we had to move them from, but unfortunately that will be a longer term effort.

>> Kelly: Thank you.

>> Mayor Adler: My hope is that with the work that we are doing in -- with homelessness and getting better mental health interventions and the other work we have that some of the workload and some of the responsibilities for the force will also change. And that will also help with

[9:55:29 PM]

making sure that you have officers that you need then. Anything else? Let's take a vote. Those in favor of approving the nomination please raise your hand? Those opposed? I think it is everybody. So 11-0 that passes.

>> Mayor?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, councilmember pool.

>> Pool: Mayor, did you want to make sure that councilmember tovo was able to register? Oh, there she is. She's right in the middle.

>> Mayor Adler: Two, three, four, five... Nine, 10, 11. All 11 of us were present. Manager, did you want to say something?

>> Just a word of appreciation for this confirmation and the appointment of chief Chacon as the interim chief for our department. Again, this is an incredibly important time for our city and our community and I couldn't have picked a better leader to allow us to

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navigate this and really looking forward to having him at the helm for these several months and we look for our permanent chief. So thank you for your support and so thank you, chief Chacon for taking on this responsibility.

>> Thank you T manager.

>> Mayor Adler: Congratulations. All right. That gets us to the last item on our agenda, which we had tabled. For councilmember tovo to come back with some wording for us I think. Item 67.

>> Tovo: Yes, thank you. Can you hear me?

[Garbled audio].

>> Mayor Adler: We lost you, Kathie. Everybody else turn off your --

[9:57:33 PM]

>> Mayor Adler: We could hear you then.

>> Tovo: Thank you. This is utter chaos today. I can hear myself echoing, so let me see if I can fix that. So you can hear me now?

>> Yes.

>> Tovo: I can't hear you.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes, we can hear you.

>> Tovo: Okay. Now I can hear you through my phone. All righty. I sent around or Kay powers sent around the amendments that reflect those from councilmember alter, the auditor and councilmember Casar. Those are also posted on the message board. And I can just kind of quickly point out what those are. This is a second round of them, so ignoring the first sheet that you got this morning. It would just update the expectation of how we'll have these sessions and so I had envisioned kind of a day long exploration. I know I received at least one suggestion from a

[9:58:34 PM]

co-sponsor that instead of one day that these be scheduled as two half days. So I think I would suggest we leave it open as to which of those works out. I'm fine with two half days and that's probably easier to schedule. So I would suggest that we just allow our staff to kind of figure out what works well for our -- what works well for our collective schedules so that we can get that -- those -- that period of time

scheduled as soon as possible. So the next edit to lines 41 through 43 just reflects the auditor's request, and councilmember alter's suggestion, too, that we make it clear that we're not going to expect the audit to cover all of those areas of interest, but that those are the areas of interest from which we're going to refine the scope. And again, my intent here is to have each of these three pieces really serve a different function -- four pieces, when you count the city manager's

[9:59:35 PM]

after-action report. So the after-action report, the city manager is doing an after-action report with the departments. We're having our own review that I'll talk about in a second. We're going to task the auditor with an exploration of what her office is really most capable of doing, which in many cases is digging deeper and talking with staff, and looking at our operations in a way that we're just not able to as a council. And also, lining that up with best practices in other areas. Some of you are looking at me with really curious faces. Can you still hear me? Okay. And then the last piece of that is a community task force. The community task force I've laid out -- of course, my sponsors have as well -- laid out a description of that. And I just want to spend a couple minutes talking about what I envision for that process. We have a lot of our boards and commissions providing us with

[10:00:37 PM]

recommendations. I really envision the community task force as a listening body. As those commissions look to the person they'll identify to serve on this, I would really suggest and urge that it be somebody who takes that task on with that in mind. I see the community task force as a place where community members who were involved as volunteers or were impacted in terms of the energy and water crisis, who have thoughts and ideas, I really see that body as a place for those conversations to happen, for that testimony to be heard, and that that commission will then return to us, not a list of recommendations, but really instead a narrative -- a report that pulls together what some of the common threads are, what some of the themes are that arose from the testimony and the accounts they incurred over that period of time, and also

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highlight some of those unique perspectives and unique voices that happened in the course of their testimony. So that they're really handling a lot of the public conversation. And frankly, also, giving face for the community to come together and share their experiences and their accounts of what was for so many a really traumatic experience. So I think that will inform our recommendations, and inform the kind of work that we do in response, and the kind of way in which we develop and build on our resilience plans. And I think that kind of covers that. I would also have included in the resolution an

alternate way for people to provide testimony for speak up Austin public portal, and a specific request to get material to the minutes, and the -- both the accounts that are submitted through the speak up Austin portal, as well

[10:02:38 PM]

as the meetings that our community task force hold, and the correspondence that they may receive to become part of an Austin history center file, created for this purpose, so we also have a kind of formal documentation of this experience. So I'll stop there for a moment. I'm sure there are questions. But I think that captures the amendments and just a little bit about the four distinct areas of this review.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember kitchen?

>> Kitchen: I just wanted to thank councilmember alter for earlier speaking about the audit and finance committees. That is the definition of the scope of the audit is something I think the whole council should be able to weigh in on, just as councilmember tovo has spoken to all of these other subjects, being something the whole council should be able to weigh in on. I think the scope of the audit

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should be something we could all weigh in on. So I think participating in the audit and finance committee when it comes up, which I think you said was next week, will be a good way to do that. So I plan on participating in that.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Any other comments? Councilmember Ellis?

>> Ellis: Just comments. I really appreciate all the work that's gone into this, and the sponsor, co-sponsors, and anyone who made amendments to get it to a place where we all understand what it does. This is definitely a cumbersome task and something that's very necessary and needs to take place. So thanks for all the work on that.

>> Mayor Adler: Thank you. Councilmember alter?

>> Alter: Thank you. I appreciate where we're at at this point, with this item.

[10:04:39 PM]

There's a lot to unpack from the storm. The city manager, in response to councilmember Kelly earlier talked about some of the things that are going on on the staff side that I think are really important. Obviously when those come back, we're going to be discussing those as well. But those will take a little

while. One day is not enough to do the due diligence that needs to be done. You know, I serve on Austin energy, and Austin water, and expect there are things that will be done in those forum as well, and things that will be done in audit and finance, as we move through the pandemic and get through certain things. So I think this should be viewed as the start of where we start. We're going to find things as we have this conversation that are going to be startling. And I've been doing some look at certain things, and I've already found some things that are shocking to me that I want to

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look deeper into. And that we need to fix. And so I just -- I appreciate this is an important first step, but I'm not under the illusion that this will be the end and be all for a tremendous event that had such a broad impact on our community. But these public forums and public conversations are really important.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Any further comments on this item? Is there a motion? I don't know if we actually took a motion before. But in case we didn't --

>> I think we did with councilmember tovo's motion, and I was seconding it, if I remember correctly.

>> Mayor Adler: And if we didn't, we have now. Tovo making the motion, alter seconding it. Any further discussion before we take a vote?

[10:06:42 PM]

Yes, councilmember tovo?

>> Tovo: I do want to make one more comment. Thank you, councilmember alter. That's absolutely true. This is, as I kind of hinted at Tuesday and I'll just reiterate, there are all kinds of

(indiscernible) To what we've learned, and what we saw during the storm and the response and the preparations beforehand. By hope is that this will be -- that this will start us on those conversations, but it will also have -- help us identify issues that we want the manager to address in the after-action report. So I really welcome your thoughts on the exhibit a that was circulated as part of this as well. I did kind of a first pass effect, and I don't think there's been a lot of comment or input from others. I did the best I could to kin of sum up -- to go through amendments that people have brought in those early sessions, and comments that I heard you make, and constituent feedback and other kinds of questions that I know have been raised in the public, or questions that I

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have myself, to compile that work plan for that day, or those two half days. I've divided it into two kinds of topics, and thank you, mayor, for the suggestion. Some would be topics, the bolded items are topics that we would have a conversation around. Some of them are longer topics, some of them are shorter topics. And the other issues are really ones that I see raising, so that the manager understands what the expectation is for addressing those in the after-action report. And all of that is absolutely undertaken with the assumption that these are just cursory glances at these. I tried in developing that chart to really hit on what I see as some of the main questions at this point. So that we have enough information to go forward and maybe develop some recommendations, or that the manager -- or wait for the information to come back when the manager in the after-action report on our future work.

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But rather than jumping right into the recommendations, having those initial conversations and having the ability to ask some initial questions about these areas, I think will hopefully be valuable.

>> The mayor is muted.

>> Mayor Adler: The tovo amendments into the main motion? Hearing none, they're included. Any further comment before we take a vote on item 67? Yes, councilmember pool?

>> Pool: I just wanted to make sure, and maybe this is more rhetorical than to ask the city manager, but it does feel like there's some duplication, and certainly we are all on the same page and have the intent to review what went down, and how things came to be, and what we can do to make it better. I guess just before I vote on

[10:09:49 PM]

this, because I -- I'm concerned about layering more and more and more work on top of our staff, and especially when these come and we don't take any more off of their plate, just add more and more detail, and a deeper dive. And we don't add staff. So I'm not really sure about capacity. So I want to be sure -- I mean, the part that I have pledged to take on is the -- through the Austin energy oversight committee with the rest of you guys, because it's a community as a whole, to continue to put topics on our agenda so that we can review it, and I expected that would be a two-way street, that staff would come to us with their reports on things that I wouldn't know to ask for, we wouldn't know to ask for, but they would. And then we would all work in collaboration together to make improvements as necessary. And I also am very aware that I

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can't necessarily know when information, especially of a technical nature, that I will need, and we will need to hear from Austin energy will be available. From my early conversations just over the past, I guess it's a little bit more than a month now, there's a lot that we want to know about, that we won't actually have that information for awhile. I appreciate councilmember tovo taking the dates off of things, because that caused me some concern. So that was good. So just in general, I don't think any of us want staff to retread ground that they've already walked. They may already -- because they're professionals -- be preparing this information to provide to us. An after-action report is, after all, that one would naturally do. Everyone's doing it if they have a sense of responsibility to the community for transparency and accountability reasons.

[10:11:50 PM]

So on the one hand, it being both acknowledging to the community that we recognize that there's a lot that they want to know. On the other hand, being potentially so prescriptive as to inhibit the professionalism and the expertise of our highly respected staff. I want to make sure that we're following in a place that doesn't take away their professional ability initiative, or circumscribe what we learn from them, because we don't know enough to include it in what is, frankly, a super -- in my mind a super comprehensive list. But then I'm not working at Austin water, and I'm not working at Austin public health. And by definition, our job is up here. It's not down in the day-to-day details. Because we're setting policy. So to the extent that the work that we are asking in item 67 of the city manager, and his staff,

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to the extent that what we receive from that can lead us in ways to improve policies, I think that's great. But I do want to draw some bright lines between telling them how to run operations as opposed to setting level policies where we're making improvements in defining the budget as necessary to do that. I'm not saying this is telling staff how to run operations, but I think we -- you know, if we're not careful, we can get pretty far down into the weeds, and then that makes it really hard for us actually to move forward, to resolution on things. And that may be why people think government is slow. And probably (indiscernible). But I really have to get this off my chest because I've been worried about it for some weeks

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now.

>> Mayor?

>> Mayor Adler: Yes.

>> I just wanted to make sure if the city manager maybe wanted to offer any response. I don't mean to put you on the spot. It could just be a rhetorical. But if there is anything that you wanted to offer.

>> Thank you, councilmember. I'll always say, part of what I'm hoping comes from this is the scoping of this work, because I think both how it's described as the discussion in audit and finance with the city auditor, and scoping that, but even the exhibit a, it's a lot of topics that could certainly take a lot of time, so I look forward to working together with councilmember tovo, and managing a list of suggestions that staff would be responding to, or certainly just putting it out there. So we'll make sure that we

[10:14:55 PM]

aren't duplicating that the efforts and that this is something that staff has the capacity and the availability to be able to respond to.

>> Pool: Thanks. That's what I thought I heard, and what I was hoping to hear. Thanks.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember tovo? And then councilmember kitchen.

>> Tovo: I need to ask my colleagues, I'm struggling to understand the concern about being in the weeds on operations. I mean, we -- what I'm trying to do is carve out some space, some significant space, not as much space as we'll need to get into lots and lots of detail, but we need the space to ask our manager, and his staff, questions about the ways some things unfolded during the storm. And that's the intent. So we can't really, without knowing more about what

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happened, we can't craft good policy, or know what needs to happen next. So I see this as a beginning of that conversation, the after-action report will provide us with more of a response to that question, as will the audit and the community work. But I guess, could you provide me with some examples of where it appeared to be diving into operations?

>> Pool: I mean, I could pick any one of the topics, and imagine that the questions that would ensue could actually get into operations. Why wasn't somebody on-site to do X, or somebody heard that this didn't happen the way they thought it was -- I mean, there's all kinds of -- I mean, there's no end. And so I like knowing that we will scope this, so that we actually have outcomes, and results, and action, you know,

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concrete steps to take in order to show our community that we are learning lessons from that latest crisis. That's what I'm hoping to guard against, is that we stray into areas of operations.

>> Tovo: I think we need to hear some -- I think we need to hear some more information about the operations, in some areas. You know, I know that you and I have had the opportunity, because you were co-sponsor on this item, to talk about this a little bit. We haven't had an opportunity in a council meeting to talk much about it. I think there are all kinds of different ways we could approach the storm, and the response. I mean, one way would be for each of us to bring forward different ifcs. I have probably six I could bring forward right now, that would be another way of trying to get at some of this information. It just seemed to me the most productive way to have the conversation was all together,

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and asking questions of our staff, rather than, you know, bringing forward a recommendation -- an ifc that would make particular recommendations for how we should do outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness prior to emergency weather events, for example. You know, so that's -- I guess I'm just struggling a little bit to understand concerns about, really what is carving out space to have a conversation about what happened. And just having a free opportunity for the council to take topic by topic, different elements related to the storm and asking our staff some initial questions. And then highlighting areas that we want them to provide more information about in the after-action report. So I don't see it as duplicative, I see it as the beginning of a conversation that continues in that after-action report.

>> Mayor Adler: Okay. Councilmember kitchen?

[10:19:01 PM]

>> Kitchen: Yes, this is for the city manager. City manager, when we're working out the details for this -- these meetings, I, too, am concerned that we not be duplicative. There are a whole range of things that we need to get into, as evidenced by, you know, the list that councilmember tovo put together. But I don't want to repeat what we've already done. And I take -- I just want to point out that this will not be the first conversation that we have about this. In a two-hour meeting. In an oversight committee, where we talked about in great detail some of the questions that are on the exhibit a. And so I don't want to re-do those things. There are still plenty of questions that need to be asked. And so I welcome -- I mean, these sessions, the way councilmember tovo has

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suggested. But I just want to remind you not to characterize these as the beginning of the conversations, since we have had conversations already. And I also want to ask our staff to repeat the presentations that they've already done, particularly in meetings where all of us were present. So I want to use this time to really delve into some areas that we haven't yet talked about, and then to delve into some other areas that we've already talked about in more detail. So Andrew, when you're putting together the agenda, I would be happy to be a resource for that. You know, in terms of deciding what needs to be talked about.

>> Mayor Adler: Yes?

>> You know what I'm going to say. I thought you all were going to take a vote, but if you want to keep talking, it's after 10:00.

>> Mayor Adler: Councilmember

[10:21:04 PM]

tovo?

>> Tovo: Yeah, I don't know how best to have the conversation at this point about what is on the agenda. I guess I would request the manager to have a conversation -- I mean, we have an exhibit a. That is the work plan that I'm putting forward as the topics of conversation. And I -- if it's on the work plan, and it's something that we did talk about in one of the two meetings we've had, it's because there were additional questions that either I or other colleagues had that we didn't get to. So it may be that we're talking about it in a very limited fashion, but I believed, or others believed there were still additional questions to be asked. I mean, I will -- I look forward to talking with the manager about that work plan, and how it can be allocated into manageable chunks, but with the passage of this, you know, again that's why I created a work plan, so that we had a schedule. So if it comes back very

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different, or is really formulated as a lot of presentations on other subjects, I don't think it's really serving the purpose for which I'm bringing forward this resolution. I intend it for really be a question-and-answer. And if we want to change that work plan, and make additional comments, then we can certainly try to do that on the message board. But otherwise I would expect we would stick pretty close to what we're approving today.

>> I have a suggestion --

>> Mayor Adler: Just a sec. My sense is that there's a lot in the work plan. And if we had a full conversation about each one, we would be, as you and I have discussed, we would be there for days potentially if everybody -- or the council wanted to ask questions. And we're going to be limited by the

amount of time. So I appreciate that you've bolded some things, and not others, as a way to emphasize. I also think that when we have

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this, we may very well be asking questions that the manager might not know answers to yet. Because he's in the process of doing his after-action plan. So in part, I think that the scope of this work may be just to identify issues for the manager that says, hey, as you're doing your after-event analysis, these are issues that the council wants to make sure that you cover in your review and analysis, because they're of concern to either that council member, or that councilmember's constituency. And I think in part it's going to be entered in. Because it's going to be -- there's a lot there. And probably more than we could do in two half days, or a full day, if everybody really wanted to ask a question or two about each of those things. So part of it's going to be kind of self-controlling.

[10:24:08 PM]

Councilmember kitchen?

>> Kitchen: Yeah. I have a suggestion. What we might want to do also, you know, I didn't -- I think what we might want to do also is just share with city manager, and maybe on the message board, I'm not sure where, if we have some thoughts on the topics and the schedule as it's put together. So this is designed to be something for all of us, so that we all have the opportunity to talk about things in this setting. So we may -- some of us may have ideas that we want to add to the agenda that we're not seeing on it now, but rather than trying to build that agenda in a council meeting, maybe we can just share any other thoughts we have on the message board, and/or with city manager as he's putting together this work session for us.

>> One other suggestion, mayor and council, that might be helpful, we talked about the

[10:25:09 PM]

reviews and work that we'll be doing as staff, and that is already under way, and that we are planning to do, even including from third parties as independent evaluators. They've been discussed at various points in time, and even through different memos, but as part of a compilation, if you will, so that is informing some of these conversations, you're aware of all the different elements that will be going into the different after-action reviews that city will be coming forward with, which may help further define the scope of some of the elements that are in this ifc. Kind of comprehensive look at all the different reviews that staff is already undertaking.

>> Mayor Adler: All right. It's 10:20. Do we want to keep talking about this or are we ready to vote? Let's take a vote. Those in favor of this item, 67, please raise your hand. I'm sorry, councilmember Kelly, did you want to --

[10:26:11 PM]

>> Kelly: I was just going to ask to abstain.

>> Mayor Adler: I'm sorry?

>> Kelly: I'd like to abstain from this vote.

>> Mayor Adler: You can. Those in favor, please raise your hand. Those opposed? Those abstaining? That would be one abstention. It passes 10-0-1. I see why it's confusing with Kathie because she has a block where she's there and she has a block where she's not there. 10-0-1. It passes. That's all the items on our agenda. 10:26. A lot of really good work done today, on a lot of really important issues. Honor to serve with you guys. With that at 10:26, this meeting is adjourned.